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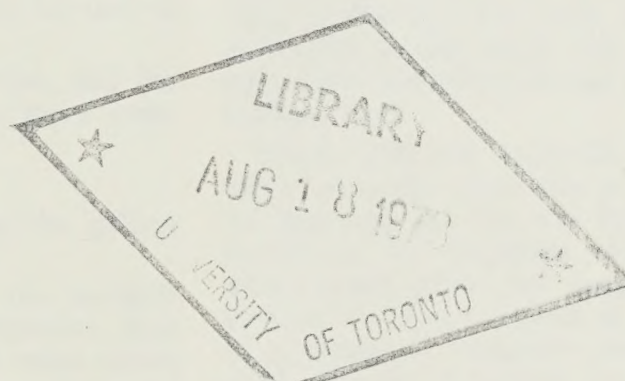


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Legislature of Ontario
Debates
Legislative assembly

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament

Tuesday, July 5, 1977

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.
Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1977

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Would you care to introduce our guests, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: I'd love to, but I can't.

Mr. Nixon: You've got unanimous consent.

LAND TRANSFER TAX AMENDMENT ACT

(concluded)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 13, An Act to amend The Land Transfer Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker: Do any other hon. members wish to speak to this bill?

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Nixon: Oh, it is going to be one of those evenings.

Mr. Cassidy: I beg your pardon, did the member for Sarnia have some more comments to make?

Mr. Blundy: No, I didn't.

Mr. Nixon: Ah, the people in the gallery are in for a big treat.

Mr. Cassidy: May I say to the member for Sarnia, through you, Mr. Speaker, that it is a pleasure to see a Liberal critic taking his duties seriously in this House and coming forward with positions on each of the bills for which he is responsible. I wish that his performance was emulated by some of his rather more dilettanteish colleagues within the Liberal caucus.

Mr. Nixon: We are here to listen to you. What heavier duty could we assume?

Mr. B. Newman: Talk about gluttons for punishment.

Mr. Cassidy: The member for Brant and surrounds has been listening to me for years, Mr. Speaker. I think he's getting a bit jaundiced because it's summertime.

The bill we have in front of us, An Act to amend The Land Transfer Tax Act, represents a lurching away by the Treasurer, the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. McKeough), from the pink Toryism of the Hon. John White, who was the member for London South. The 20 per cent transfer tax on non-resident purchases of apartment buildings, speculative land banks and so on, is re-

scinded in this bill and the only place where special treatment will continue to apply is on non-resident purchases of recreation land and of farmland.

I have to say that for all of the inadequacies of this particular bill we felt that the principle when it was proposed three years ago was a correct one. We were very upset over the loopholes that were built into the bill at that time. We remain upset at the loopholes that exist in the bill; they are so large the bill is largely ineffective. We feel, however, that now is not the time and this is not the way to take action on this particular tax.

Effectively what we have now is a bill which was designed to protect a re-emergence of the speculative fever which hit our cities in the last five years being weakened to become a bill which only protects recreation land and certain forms of farmland and nothing more.

When this bill originally came forward three years ago there was a lengthy debate. At that time we did say that we were disturbed by the loopholes which existed and which might allow, we suggested, a foreign investor to acquire control in an indirect way of a Canadian company and, therefore, to evade the tax. I suggest that people in the real estate industry could offer many examples of cases where sham deals have been put forward in order to permit non-resident investment in residential real estate, or other kinds of real estate, in our cities, in contravention of the spirit of this particular bill.

The way to handle that though, Mr. Speaker, was to block up those loopholes—and there are means, affidavits and that kind of thing, to block up those loopholes—rather than simply open them wide as the government is now doing. I think there is a fallacy involved with this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Roy: The biggest fallacy is you, Cassidy.

Mr. Cassidy: The fallacy is that somehow the importation of funds from abroad—whether from Hong Kong, or from Pittsburgh, or from Dusseldorf, or wherever—is somehow a cure, or an answer, or a response to problems that we may have in the supply of housing here in Canada.

If the minister was more able, she would come forward with the following defence of this particular piece of legislation. She would talk about the procedure by which developers build a building and look around for a buyer. She would suggest that there is a lack of entrepreneurship on the part of Canadian capitalists and therefore we require capitalists from other jurisdictions to come into the Ontario market in order to buy up real estate and, therefore, free up the developers to build more buildings.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, that raises some very important questions about the nature of those questing, venturing capitalists, those free enterprisers whom the Conservative Party is so proud to protect. Why is it that they're not prepared, apparently, to take advantage of opportunities being made for them and why aren't they getting into this particular land market? Why is it that this government is so bankrupt in its housing policies and its development policies that it seems to be able to rely only on foreign capital coming in, in order to bail us out for things which the Ontario corporate sector is not prepared, apparently, to do? I just think the whole thing is a bunch of nonsense; I think it's all a bunch of nonsense.

Mr. Pope: There's no need for self-criticism.

Mr. Turner: That makes it a good bill then. We were just thinking that.

Mr. Cassidy: What we worry about in this party is the fact that over the years of the early 1970s there was a steady and persistent process by which the heart of our cities was being bought up by foreign interests, just as inexorably as Canadian industry has been bought up or taken over by foreign interests from other countries. It was getting to the point where you couldn't work for a Canadian entrepreneur, you couldn't buy Canadian products, and you couldn't even live in a dwelling which had been erected or which was owned by your fellow Canadians. I, for one, tend to think that it would be nice if we could keep our class wars, if we could keep the conflict between the interests of owners and tenants, sellers and buyers, entrepreneurs and workers, and that kind of thing here, in a domestic situation rather than constantly being subjected to pressures which come from abroad.

Mr. Roy: Yes, but you are always inflaming the situation. You have called every landlord a villain.

Mr. Cassidy: No I haven't, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Roy: Yes you have.

Mr. Cassidy: But I'll call one landlord a villain. I'll talk about Metropolitan Trust, which is a German-controlled company and which has been guilty, I would suggest, of really scandalous practices in terms of kicking families out of various dwellings that it's had here in the Toronto area. As far as their operations are concerned they're perfectly all right; it's just that they don't happen to like people with kids. If they operated out of their own country they would have to work under a regime where they would be obliged to accept a tenant who happened to have children, but here in this country they come in and they ignore human decency. It's easy to do that when you're 3,000 miles away.

Mr. Wildman: Subversion, we call it.

Mr. Cassidy: And they also ignore the rules that apply in their own country. They come in with an interest solely to make a profit and with absolutely no commitment to the future of our kind of living style here in this province.

Part of the aim of The Land Transfer Tax Act was to discourage the kind of continued incursion of foreign capital into the residential sector of our cities, where there was an enormous outburst of speculative fever that occurred in the early part of the 1970s. I think it's significant that two things haven't happened that the government might have expected to happen from this tax and a related bill, the Land Speculation Tax, which is also being watered down in the amendments we have as a consequence of this year's budget.

The first is that the revenues accruing to the government have not jumped up as a consequence of this particular 20 per cent tax. In fact, the figures indicate quite the contrary. They indicate that the big increase in property values in 1972 and 1973 brought an increase in the land transfer tax revenue, as a result of this three-fifths of one per cent tax, but that there was virtually no effect as a result of this tax on non-resident purchases.

Here are the figures: In 1972-73, the revenues from The Land Transfer Tax Act were \$29 million. In 1973-74, that is up to virtually the day that this tax was introduced, those revenues jumped by 50 per cent to \$46 million. In the year that this 20 per cent tax was introduced, however, the revenues from The Land Transfer Tax Act increased by all of \$2 million, or about five per cent, from \$46 million to \$48 million; and they have risen very gently since then to \$51 million in the fiscal 1975-76 year and to an estimated \$52 million in 1976-77.

It's interesting that in 1977-78, after the withdrawal of this particular tax, the government now estimates that the land transfer tax revenues will jump by \$8 million, or about 16 per cent, to a total of \$60 million. In other words, the jump will be bigger in the year the tax was withdrawn than it was during the three years in which the tax was actually in force.

Does that mean that there was no purchase of real estate here by foreigners? I suggest to you that was part of the effect, and that, in itself, was probably a good thing as far as the life of our cities is concerned—that a number of foreign investors were discouraged from putting funds in and hotting up a situation which was already difficult. I would suggest that for others—there was lots of advice available from lawyers, accountants, real estate brokers and other people who had an interest in paving the way for foreign men to come into real estate in this country—there was lots of advice available as to how they could bring that money into real estate here in Ontario and avoid the tax.

Of course, one of the ways that was done was by means of the exemption system which was built into the tax by the government. That was a very wide open situation. Without going into all of the details of the legislation—I won't even quote the actual section but I believe it's section 16—any foreign investor who indicated that the company intended to develop land for industrial, commercial or for residential purposes in Ontario could get an exemption from the tax, provided they met certain conditions laid down by the Minister of Revenue. I think that during the course of this debate—this is the first chance we've had to review this bill in three years—the Minister of Revenue should give some indication of what kind of conditions were actually set down, particularly in residential development since that's the area which I think is probably of the greatest interest and concern.

But anybody who said they would develop property could get an exemption from the 20 per cent tax, provided that they carried out those conditions. They didn't have to pay the money and then wait to get it back when the conditions were fulfilled. They could get a deferral of the tax liability and the liability was extinguished at the time the condition was fulfilled. Because of the way these things work and the cozy kind of environment which the Tories run in this province, there has been no means of asking the government, and certainly no

willing volunteering of information from the government, as to what conditions were set down and how those conditions were, in fact, fulfilled. I suspect, though, that the conditions were relatively light.

This bill might be more acceptable—and we're going to oppose it, as I think is clear from what I've been saying right now—if the acquisition by foreign interests of speculative land holdings were to continue to be subjected to the 20 per cent tax. However, that is not the case. As I read the bill, the existing exemptions on industrial and commercial land continue. The exemption on residential land which is to be developed is being broadened into an exemption on any kind of land which is zoned residential; including, I presume, speculative land holdings in residential holding zones which are no longer Crown land but have not yet been moved forward for development by the local municipality. The only lands to which the transfer tax will continue to apply is recreational land and farm land which is currently under production.

[8:15]

I don't think that's enough protection. I believe and my party believes, that if you just simply cut the land transfer tax down to those two items of recreational land and farm land, then you have left a very broad loophole, and that loophole will be exploited. It may not happen this year. It may happen next year or the year after that or the year after that; but we will find that if we let this essential piece of protection down, and if Canada and Ontario investment becomes fashionable again the way it was three or four years ago, we will suddenly see an enormous incursion of foreign money into residential investment in this province, which will have the effect of driving up the price of residential building land. It will have the effect of driving up the price of apartments. It will ultimately have an effect for which Canadian residents—our people here, our constituents, including the constituents of the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener)—will have to pay in the form of much higher rents, in the form of much higher prices for houses and in the form of much higher mortgage payments which they will have to pay for 30 or 40 years.

I, for one, have been very upset at the number of policies we have coming from the government which are designed to kind of close the stable door after the horse has fled. If I can change that analogy around, what's happened is that the speculative investors were allowed to come in and take an enor-

mous profit at the expense of purchasers and tenants of residential land; measures were taken three years ago which the government said would have the effect of containing that particular situation; there was a brief period of containment, but it is significant that there has been no rolling back whatsoever, either in the higher rents or in the high prices of residential property which took effect as a result of the speculation that occurred in this province, in our major cities, in the early 1970s.

What we have had instead is both the federal and the provincial government coming in to rescue, not the ordinary working Joe earning \$9,000 or \$10,000 a year, but middle-class, middle-income people, by giving them very substantial housing subsidies in order to buy property which they could and should have been able to afford without government assistance if this government hadn't been asleep at the switch when the speculators were having a field day.

Now the government is making the same mistake all over again. It is reopening the door to speculators to rip off the public once again, and that means to rip off the taxpayers of this province who one way or another are liable to have to pay the bill.

Mr. Warner: Withdraw the bill or resign.

Mr. Cassidy: They are going to pay the bill because of a loss of potential revenues.

An hon. member: Shame on Margaret.

Mr. Cassidy: They are going to have to pay the price because of increasing expenditures through the provincial Ministry of Housing and through the federal ministry responsible for housing and through the federal CMHC, all to repair situations which were permitted by free enterprise governments, and which should not have been permitted had there been an adequate control of land prices and land development by government over the previous few years.

I don't want to go into this in great detail.

Mr. Havrot: Thank God.

Mr. Cassidy: I think it is well known that the NDP believes, has believed and will continue to believe, that it's possible to have a much more sensible process of development of land in order to ensure that it is developed in the interests of people on moderate incomes, the ordinary people of this province. We are not getting those kinds of policies from the government at this time. We are getting certain policies which have allowed certain kinds of housing to come into the hands of certain people, provided that they can be sure that their incomes are rising very rapidly over the four or five years that the

subsidies will be applied to them. Beyond that period of time, they face very high costs for their housing and no assurance they will be bailed out by a continuation of those very expensive subsidies.

We have a government that on one side deplures public housing subsidies, but on the other side is prepared to give equal amounts of money to people for home purchase provided that those subsidies don't go on indefinitely. It's a crazy set of policies they are pursuing. What the Minister of Revenue, at the behest of the member for Chatham-Kent, is carrying out in this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, is simply to further confound a rather chaotic and nonsensical set of policies which I fear are going to get us into greater and greater difficulties if they are allowed to continue.

In opposing this bill, I want to say that the one area of the legislation we welcome is that recreational land and farm land will continue to be protected. I want to say, as well, that on a technical basis, I think the minister's officials should look very seriously at the definition of residential land in section 1 of this particular bill. I believe that it is inconsistent with the 1974 legislation and will create enormous difficulties of interpretation which will allow high-priced tax lawyers, acting on behalf of people trying to further avoid this particular legislation, to have a field day in the courts.

As for the rest of it, we think that the minister is wrong—she is always wrong, we know that. We think that the Treasurer is wrong, that the government is wrong—

Mr. Havrot: Everybody is out of step but you.

Mr. Cassidy:—and we will oppose this bill. We wish the government would come forward with effective policies to ensure that our cities can grow, develop, be liveable places; and places that we own ourselves rather than places owned by foreigners.

Mr. Roy: It's not going to be difficult for me to say a few words that will make more sense than what I've just heard to my left.

Mr. Cassidy: They are supporting you for leader.

Mr. Roy: And before my friends across the way get all excited, I am not about to defend them, either.

Mr. Havrot: Resign.

Mr. Cassidy: That's Warner's line, isn't it?

Mr. Havrot: You be careful or I'll walk across the floor.

Mr. Cassidy: We would leave.

Mr. Speaker: Now can we get on with the bill?

Mr. Roy: In listening to the comments of the previous member about the importance of getting this country moving, to create economic activity, to create jobs, it seems somewhat inconsistent to me that they would continue to put a burden on certain property in a bill—a bill we shall support—which encouraged the development of what we consider to be commercial property; and of course at the same time we felt it important that there be protection for farm and recreational land. The protection remains there, but on the economic side it seemed to us that because of this tax, coupled with the interest rate, the land speculation tax and the undue restriction on that particular tax, economic activity was stymied in this province.

Over a period of a few years, we have seen that when the economy doesn't move, of course, it affects jobs. When you are trying to keep a proper perspective, a proper balance in what you are attempting to do, to create employment, to create economic activity, profit then is not a bad word. We in this party believe in profit, we believe in private enterprise, so that the basic principle as outlined in this particular bill is not something that is foreign to us, it is something that we can encourage.

You know you can't have it both ways. You can't say that you are concerned about unemployment, that you are concerned about young people not having jobs, and at the same time have a series of tax measures which to all intents and purposes discourage or are too much of a detriment to people who are prepared to get involved in economic activity in the commercial field.

Mr. Laughren: It resembles the federal programs, it's like the federal programs.

Mr. Roy: You really can't have it both ways.

Mr. Laughren: The federal program, eh, Albert? We know, Albert.

Mr. Roy: If something has been brought out in this election, it is the inconsistency in NDP policy, it has really been brought out. I have said this before on the political platform and I am not afraid of saying it again, the same people who are yelling about corporate bums—

Mr. Cassidy: The hon. member is consistently wrong, that's what he is.

Mr. Roy: Those fellows over here this year were running after them for money to finance its election campaign.

Mr. Havrot: The welfare bums are on that side.

Mr. Roy: So if anything else had happened in this election, with the back-off from their policy—

Mr. Laughren: Order, order.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member with a point of order.

Mr. Lawlor: A point of personal privilege.

Mr. Cassidy: I claim some expertise about the rules of relevance and debate in this particular House, and I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member is out of order and should return to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: I would also suggest that he is straying somewhat; and would he please address his remarks to this Chair.

Mr. Roy: I can say this of the member for Ottawa Centre, Mr. Speaker, the minute we start getting to him, then I am out of order.

Mr. Germa: You are always out of order.

Mr. Breagh: Albert, comb your hair.

Mr. Laughren: Button your jacket, Albert.

Mr. Roy: The point we are trying to make is, very simply, that you can't have it both ways. You can't say well, we want to keep these taxes on, we think that we should keep the speculation tax on, that we should stifle economic activity, and then be out there yelling about the unemployment problem.

Mr. Laughren: Like the federal Liberals, Albert.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: I think it's unbiased. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP or the previous speaker have been talking out of both sides of their mouths.

Mr. Havrot: That's Alice in Wonderland.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: And so we in this party, Mr. Speaker, have never been afraid to face consistent policies.

Mr. Germa: You support the flip-flop.

Mr. Laughren: Sit down while you are only losing.

Mr. Roy: That's why we're prepared to say, "Yes, we're prepared to remove some of the burdens to encourage economic activity," because if we encourage economic activity, of course, we shall create more employment. And I'm sure the members to my left—I like

having these fellows there to my left, that's where they should be—

Mr. Laughren: Far to your left.

Mr. Young: You still believe in Santa Claus, Albert.

Mr. Roy: It seems to me that these are some of the measures that have to be taken if we're to stimulate the economy of this province. So we have no qualms about supporting this legislation. We feel that it's consistent.

Interjection.

Mr. Cassidy: I think you belong to the national capitalist elite.

Mr. Roy: At the time the legislation was brought forward we were critical of the government, because we felt that if anything is difficult in the economic situation in this province, it's inconsistent policies on the part of the government. We felt that possibly its reaction back in the years 1973-74 was in fact an over-reaction—and possibly the minister is prepared to admit that. There was a problem at that time, but because of the poor economic prophecies of the Treasurers the government was in fact curtailing—

Mr. Laughren: Albert, run federally.

Mr. Roy: It was curtailing economic activity with a weapon which at that time was much, much too strong.

Mr. Stokes: As I recall, you voted for it.

Mr. Roy: As I recall it it was this party, Mr. Speaker, which made the legislation workable at all. It was this party.

Interjections.

Mr. Stokes: Now you are admitting you were wrong.

Mr. Roy: No, we're not admitting that, Mr. Speaker. You see, the strength of this party is that this party feels that it has responses for the situation that exists at that time. We're not hung up on so-called principles, like the people to my left—

Mr. Stokes: You don't have any—you don't have any.

Mr. Roy: Principles which you no longer have.

Mr. Lawlor: He is not hung up on principles so he wouldn't be bothered.

Mr. Roy: You're not even going to nationalize anything, you people.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder if you could speak to the principle of the bill, please. Thank you.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I think the point must be made that at the time that this

legislation and the speculation tax Act was brought forward it was this party that made it workable.

Mr. Lawlor: Totally consistent.

Mr. Roy: And we expressed at that time a certain amount of concern. Yes, we supported the legislation because we felt that there was a problem at that time. But it seems to us that the government—

Mr. Germa: All free enterprisers.

Mr. Roy: —the government's role in stimulating economic activity is something that's got to alter occasionally and the response must have some reflection to the problem that exists at that time. So we say, Mr. Speaker, that to stimulate economic activity at this time this type of legislation to us makes sense. I would hope that all members, even members who are hung up on so-called principles—

Mr. Breaugh: That has never been your problem, Albert.

Mr. Cunningham: Even the socialists.

Mr. Roy: Even the socialists, would understand economic policy. You know—understand that they're in Canada now, that free enterprise works and that to make a profit is not a sin. This is the reason why we're supporting this legislation.

Mr. Cassidy: Why try to prop it up then?

Mr. Havrot: If that is a few words I would hate to hear a full-fledged speech.

Mr. Cunningham: Lawlor for leader.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted if our friend had just detailed in which specific way they had made this legislation work. I don't remember them making an iota of a contribution with respect to the debate on the matter at all—as usual.

Mr. Roy: Of course, Patrick, you have attained an age where you forget a lot of things.

Mr. Lawlor: The original legislation, the legislation which is being altered tonight, came through in 1974. It was almost immediately completely revamped by a bill called Land Transfer Tax No. 2, which probably was more elaborate than Land Transfer Tax No. 1. The legislation as it originally came through—there's no need really to amend it tonight to make the provision—the legislation as it stands on the books today is so honey-combed with exceptions, is so much ventilated with holes that anybody could practically go through.

Mr. Havrot: There is not much ventilation today, man. It is a hot night.

[8:30]

Mr. Lawlor: If one looks at the sections in respect to deferrals and the use of deferrals in the acquisition of all manner of land, et cetera, on resale to residents, the provisions there are, as I say, honeycombed. The definition of a non-resident corporation, and the business of the holding of shares, is flexible in the extreme. The use of unit trusts within the application of the legislation leaves much to be desired.

Apart from those masterful but minor things, I want to refer to the recommendations to the Minister of Revenue for the province, submitted by the minister's advisory committee in July 1974. The man who headed up this inquiry was R. M. Anson-Cartwright FCA, as chairman—

Mr. Havrot: Ah, Mr. Cartwright.

Mr. Lawlor: —with a multitude of legal talent, FAs and CAs all over the place. They found that the many things I have mentioned here today were perfectly true. But on page 2, in their address to the minister—and, after all, this is the minister's own committee—they said:

"The Hon. John White made two statements in his budget speech of April 9, 1974, that are particularly relevant to this recommendation. He said first that 'In examining the problem of rapidly rising prices for real property in Ontario, it has become increasingly apparent that large-scale acquisitions of land by non-residents of Canada is a significant factor.' He also stated: 'I emphasize . . . that it is not our intention to penalize industries which seek to locate or expand in this province [nor did the legislation extant do so] although we would encourage these established companies to broaden Canadian equity participation'."

Then, going on to the next Act: "Mr. White said: 'There is no doubt . . . speculation . . . by non-residents bids up (land) prices artificially, increases the cost of housing and generates unwarranted windfall gains.'" That is with respect to this legislation and to the next bill that is coming before us.

What has changed materially or significantly in the past three years that would make those statements out of date or in any way questionable? They are as valid today as they were then, and therefore the legislation should stay in place and intact. If a corporation, if the Arabs want to buy industrial or residential land in this province, they simply have to incorporate here. It is a very simple process. On the question of the holdings, they have to diversify them over resident Canadians with respect to the share position in the corporations. It can all be

manipulated and nicely arranged; there's no great problem.

Why then add to the inflationary burden in the land field, which is precisely what the minister is doing by taking this tax off and restricting it within narrow confines. With respect to the section 16 deferral provisions, the minister retains them with respect to farm and cottage properties and perpetuates the particular inequities worked in there. The whole thing becomes threadbare, loose and of very little account. I said it didn't have a significant impact in any of that. The minister said that the greater the impact of this legislation, the lesser the tax. But, as a matter of fact, it is beginning to rise.

This is a curious twist of the tail that we have before us tonight. Why not leave it alone? In no way, in my opinion, does it impinge upon foreign acquisitions. It is not a vital factor in the economy of this province. It does help to keep prices of land down and out of the hands of the speculators, particularly from other lands. Therefore, this is at this time—it may not be so three years from now—a retrograde step.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the members for their contributions to the debate on this bill for second reading. I was interested to note the member for Sarnia's remarks just before the dinner recess that the Liberal Party supports the changes to the bill, and this was supported again by the member for Ottawa East.

In terms of the remarks of the member for Ottawa Centre, he argues philosophically that this is not the way to go at this time. Frankly, we say it is the way to go and we are flexible and are willing to reflect the economic requirements of the times.

Mr. Makarchuk: You are willing to give the country away. That is what you are prepared to do.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: He mentioned economic loopholes several times. He mentioned them in terms of loopholes existing in the present bill, and which he considers will exist in the bill as amended. He did not, however, outline what loopholes he had in mind, unless he was referring to foreign investment in land which must be protected.

I think this land will continue to be protected. Land which is recreational or agricultural in character will continue to be protected under the provisions of the bill, and it will be subjected to a very heavy rate of taxation as it is at the present time. However, with this protection, non-resident investment will not be discouraged and will be welcomed in Ontario as it relates to industrial, commercial and residential property. In other

words, what I am saying to the member is that we appear to have a basic, philosophic difference of opinion.

As to loopholes which the member says will be opened if this bill is passed, he did not indicate what they are. One can only speculate. I have to say I deny his arguments—

Mr. Cassidy: One can speculate in this province now that those bills are going through.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I have to say I deny his arguments concerning housing for middle-class families and the problems which will be generated. I think he paints a picture of doom and gloom which is fallacious and most unlikely in terms of what this bill will actually do in terms of creating and stimulating construction of new housing.

Mr. Cassidy: It's happening now.

Mr. Havrot: You are just a born loser, that's all.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: The member also queried the present qualifications for exemption.

Mr. Warner: You jest.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Frankly, these qualifications have been so widely broadcast and are so commonly known to so many people it never occurred to me that a member of this House as well informed as the member for Ottawa East would not be familiar with them—Ottawa Centre, I'm sorry.

Mr. Stokes: You were right the first time.

Mr. Cassidy: I thought you were doing fine.

Mr. Germa: Can you walk and chew gum at the same time?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: But they are based on residence. It is not necessary to be a Canadian citizen—

Mr. Roy: She is yours, not ours.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —but it is necessary to establish permanent residence within two years—

Mr. S. Smith: Wait until she says "Ottawa West"; then you are in trouble.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —and to have lived in Canada for 366 days continuously in the past two years and immediately prior to taking the land or having exemption confirmed.

Mr. Cassidy: The minister is simply unaware of the loopholes.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: The member did not outline them and frankly I wracked my brain trying to think of what he was referring to. I queried my staff and they don't know what he

is referring to, and I guess we know the bill very well.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: And he doesn't know what he is referring to either.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. member: You had your say.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. member: Sit down, you had your say.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I consider the remarks from the member for Ottawa East—and I apologize to him for not mentioning his constituency title correctly—his remarks were really bang on. It's a fact that we do want to stimulate investment—

Mr. Cassidy: Boy, they are in bed again together.

Mr. Stokes: What do you expect? He is more Tory than you are.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: We do want to stimulate investment in development in this province—

Mr. S. Smith: We are trying to get him to cross the floor.

Mr. Cunningham: Let's have an Ontario senate.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —and we are convinced that this bill will have the effect of encouraging such investment at this time.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The motion is for second reading of Bill 13.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Mr. Cassidy: No.

Some hon. members: No.

An hon. member: Shame!

Mr. Acting Speaker: Do I understand the hon. members wish to—

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, there should be a vote on second reading, at least a voice vote. That's why we said "no".

Mr. Acting Speaker: The Chair called for whether the motion would pass and nobody objected.

Mr. Cassidy: Point of order, Mr. Speaker, for the record, the New Democratic Party is opposed to this bill and we did object to second reading. I put that on the record. I expect it will go into Hansard.

Interjections.

Mr. Havrot: Which part of it, the front part?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Referred to committee?

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right.

Mr. S. Smith: There are no changes.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Third reading of the bill.

Mr. Cassidy: It will have to go to committee.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. As I understand the standing orders, if there's an objection to going to third reading it should be referred to committee.

Mr. Cassidy: Exactly.

Mr. Acting Speaker: I heard objections and I would assume that the bill would be referred to the committee of the whole House.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I believe the objection has to be raised by 20 members.

Interjections.

Mr. Cunningham: What change do you have in mind there?

Mr. S. Smith: What changes are you going to make?

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, perhaps the hon. minister would like to cite the reference she is referring to.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, it's in the new rules under which we are operating at this time. I may move third reading of the bill; unless 20 members object to third reading, the third reading is proceeded with.

An hon. member: She's right, you know.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I asked the hon. minister if she could cite the specific rule which she is referring to. I think the hon. Speaker is aware of the practice of the House, which is if members wish to deal with the bill in committee of the whole, it goes to committee of the whole. It is not the right of the government to take it through to third reading without unanimous consent.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Perhaps the hon. members will allow me to confer with the Clerk to ascertain the correct ruling?

Mr. MacDonald: We have been doing this for months.

Interjections.

Mr. Maeck: Mr. Speaker, can I refer you to section 19?

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I would refer you to 47(b) and 47(c). Rule 47(b) states, "When a bill has received second reading it may, by unanimous consent, be ordered for third reading." And you, Mr. Speaker, stated that there were objections, as there certainly were.

Rule 47(c) says, "If unanimous consent, as required by clause (b) is refused, if the bill is a government measure it will be referred to a committee of the whole House or a standing or select committee as the minister having charge of the bill designates."

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Exactly what she said.

Mr. Cassidy: Obviously it is at the minister's discretion. If she wishes to have the bill sent downstairs, then that's obviously a prerogative of the government side. But the discretion is only whether the bill goes to the committee of the whole, or whether it goes to a standing or special committee of the House.

Mr. S. Smith: Turn the page.

Mr. Acting Speaker: My interpretation of section 18 is, and I am reading from the standing orders, "When 20 members stand in their place after second reading of a bill, the bill shall be referred to a standing or select committee of the House, as the minister having charge of the bill designates"

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, if I may. Your reading of rule 18 is, of course, entirely accurate. But it refers, sir, if you will, to standing or select committees and doesn't refer to the committee of the whole House. The prerogative, as everyone understands it, is that if the opposition members wish that the bill should go to committee of the whole House, or to a committee, the minister has the choice of any of the committees, including the committee of the whole House, but must send it to a committee.

The only time that rule 18 comes into place, sir, is if the opposition or the government back-benchers were to want the bill to go to a standing committee or a select committee. Then at that time they would require 20 members to stand in their places in order to so direct it.

I would ask you, if you would, to abide by what has been the precedent and what is the understanding and in fact what is in the rules. That it is in fact the prerogative of members to ask that the bill go to committee and it is the obligation of the minister to send the bill to committee, although the choice is up to the minister unless 20 members direct otherwise.

[8:45]

Mr. Roy: If I might speak on the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think the point made by the member for Wentworth is correct, that unanimous consent is required to go on to third reading. My point simply is that my recollection of what took place in the House is that when you asked for third reading, we didn't hear the objection by the member standing at the—

Mr. Cassidy: Oh, no.

Mr. Roy: I recall the incident very vividly—

Mr. Stokes: Stop trying to weasel. You were wrong in your interpretation of the rules. Be gracious enough to accept it.

Mr. Roy: What are you annoyed about?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. I think I ruled initially that because there was not unanimous consent, the bill should be referred to the committee of the whole House or the committee to which the minister wished to designate it.

Mr. Deans: That's absolutely correct.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Because there had been some reference to it, I did read provisional rule 18, and it seems to me that rule, as the hon. member for Wentworth has indicated, is where it's to be referred to a standing or select committee. This is being referred, as I understand it, to the committee of the whole House; consequently, I have ruled and abide by the ruling.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

LAND SPECULATION TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener moved second reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend The Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: This bill proposes a number of important amendments designed to enforce this government's tax policy with regard to speculative activity in real estate. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that this government continues to oppose non-productive trading in land. However, the government also recognizes that such a policy must be carefully refined if it is not to be destructive. Accordingly, then, this bill proposes three major changes to The Land Speculation Tax Act.

Firstly, the time period for which an investment property must be held in order to be eligible for exemption from land speculation tax will be reduced from 10 years to five years. This change will make investment in apartment buildings much more attractive and will spur the construction of needed rental accommodation.

Secondly, changes are proposed to the exemption for farmers. Effective April 20, 1977, any person or his or her spouse who actively farms a farm property for 10 years—any 10 years—will earn a full exemption from land speculation tax for that property. This change will remove potentially onerous problems for farmers who become unable to operate their farms through age or illness but who wish to retain their land.

Thirdly, this bill will implement certain changes arising from changes to The Land Transfer Tax Act.

These changes will ease potential hardship on our farmers and will help to encourage the construction of rental accommodation. At the same time, the purpose of The Land Speculation Tax Act will continue to be fulfilled.

Mr. Blundy: I think many of the arguments that were put forth pro and con for Bill 13, which was just handled by the House, pertain in the case of Bill 14. I don't suppose there is one member in this House whose riding has not seen the vibrant economy that we knew in development back in 1972, 1973 and 1974, fall off to a certain degree over the past few years. I think this is what we want to be able to ensure will continue or will again be the case in this province.

Under the present Act, even the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) admits in his budget statement that a substantial pool of capital normally available to resident developers in the province has not been available. For three years now, since 1974, there has been a falling off and people wanting to invest in Ontario have been discouraged and have not been investing in property. I personally believe that the amendments that are proposed in this Land Speculation Tax Act will assist the economy of the province and the development of land for the building of residential properties especially apartments and homes.

The farmers are, obviously, being more fairly dealt with under the amendments in this Act and I personally feel that this is a fair amendment. I believe that, basically, our party is in agreement with the amendments outlined in the Act and we will support the bill.

(Applause.)

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I hope that support from the Liberal Party is for me. I doubt it.

Mr. S. Smith: It is part of the leadership campaign. You have our complete support, Mike.

Mr. Cassidy: I want to say one positive word about this bill before I say a few

negative words about it. That is this. We're prepared to go along with, in fact we welcome, the particular sections that apply to legitimate farmers who will earn a complete exemption from the land speculation tax after a period of 10 years. That seems to be a reasonable kind of thing.

When you look at the alternatives between the desire to maintain people in productive farming on the one hand and the danger of one or two people exploiting that as a loophole, frankly, we think that it's right to err, if one errs at all, on behalf of the full-time productive farmer by ensuring that they do not become liable to this particular tax and that they earn the entire exemption over the 10-year period.

That said, as far as the rest of the tax is concerned, the comments I made about The Land Transfer Tax Act can be applied pretty much to this particular piece of legislation as well. I think it's wrong. We think it's wrong. We think the basis for the weakening of the tax confirms every word the member for York South said when he initially commented on the land speculation tax when it was introduced in 1974. Every word of the forecast we gave at that time has amply proved true. That's unfortunate because it indicates just how ineffective these two taxes have been in getting some reasonable behaviour back into the housing and residential market, particularly in the province, over the past three years.

The member for Sarnia said, "Quite probably we're going to get a vibrant economy back into our cities as the result of these two particular tax measures." I want to remind the member for Sarnia, since he wasn't here at that time, just what that vibrant economy was and what the conditions were in 1974. To take one index, between 1973 and 1974 we had an increase in the average price of residential property in the city of Toronto, or the Toronto region, from \$35,000 a unit to \$50,000 a unit. These days \$35,000 doesn't even buy you a two-bedroom town house on the outskirts of Oshawa, let alone a decent house within Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Roy: You can buy a house on the Island for that, Mike.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: These guys are bitter, Mr. Speaker. They really are. It's a most incredible situation. Obviously, though, they're harking back to 1974 when, yes, I did happen to live on the Island at a reasonable rent at that time, in accommodation which has

now been condemned by the Metro chairman, and in a house which I'm afraid—

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Will the member get back to the principle of the bill?

Mr. Cassidy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to point out that the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) and the member for Ottawa East, the Conservatives and the Liberals, have never lifted a finger on behalf of the 250 families on Toronto Island who were being expropriated by Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey. They have no sense of compassion—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: No wonder it was condemned.

Mr. Cassidy: —or concern.

Mr. Pope: Your leader made a profit on his house.

Mr. Cassidy: A profit?

Interjections.

Mr. S. Smith: May it be recorded that the member for Ottawa Centre did lift a finger.

Mr. Cassidy: Dear me.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I plead guilty. I have never lived on Toronto Island.

Mr. Cassidy: Okay.

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, Mr. Speaker, has the opportunity to bring forward legislation on which there can be a vote. I challenge him to bring forward that legislation in order to ensure that the residents of Toronto Island are protected and are no longer under the thumb of Paul Godfrey and Metro council.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: Boy, that was an election promise, Mr. Speaker, of two years ago.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: It has never been fulfilled.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I would like to remind the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick he should speak only from his seat. The member for Ottawa Centre.

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, the vibrant economy that the member for Sarnia harked back to so fondly was an economy where land prices were skyrocketing by the month, where the prices of property were rising by two or three per cent per month, where rent increases of 20 and 30 per cent were common

in our major cities. That's what it means by a vibrant economy. That's what the Liberal Party wants to restore to Ontario and that's what the Conservative Party apparently wants to restore to Ontario as well.

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: We are getting back to precisely that situation with the legislation which is before us in The Land Speculation Tax Act. The minister and the Treasurer and the government want to do away with the land speculation tax. They want to allow foreign investors to come in en masse. They are doing away with rent review effective the end of 1978 and we will be back to exactly the same situation that occurred or that existed in 1972, 1973 and in 1974.

It seems to me that it is important for us to think back to that time and to realize what are the reasons why there has in fact been a certain cooling off in the urban economy, in construction and that kind of thing, over the years between 1974 and the present. It obviously is not because of these particular taxes. It is because there has been a difficult period of readjustment to a very rapid rise in land costs which was permitted—in fact encouraged—by the Conservative Party and its friends.

There was also a rise in the cost of construction materials which was created by economic situations—cyclic economic conditions—across North America. There was a very great increase in the cost of labour which related to the inflationary situation in which we existed. And there was a very rapid increase over that period of time in the costs of mortgages.

All of those things occurred together. They had the effect of dampening down the construction market for industrial, commercial and in particular for residential property.

Mr. Maeck: Is that what you were telling the electorate?

Mr. Cassidy: Bearing in mind that period of readjustment has now just about come to an end. Bearing in mind that a number of the factors which led to that situation have pulled out. Bearing in mind—to say this to the member for Timiskaming—that there has been a readjustment, for example, in such things as certain construction wages, certainly a readjustment of the cost of construction materials, and some flattening out in the increases in land costs, what was important was to keep the protections against speculation and against foreign investment in place against a renewal of exactly the kind of situation we had four and five years ago. Instead of which we have all the props being taken out of the protections that were around, in

order to prevent a recurrence of that particular situation.

This bill provides a major bonus to people who want to speculate in land over the short term. It cuts the period of remission of the land speculation tax down from 10 per cent a year over 10 years to one and two-thirds per cent a month.

If I can take the example of somebody who has held a property for a short period of time, say two and a half or three years, they will be liable right now to a tax of 14 per cent of the capital gain of the speculative land profit on their increase in value after three years. That tax is being cut from 14 per cent to approximately eight per cent of the overall profit.

If the profit is at all interesting, an eight per cent tax on it is not going to serve as any effective deterrent. That means apart from somebody who wants to get into a property and out within a year or so, there is no longer any effective deterrent against speculation in properties recurring the way it was occurring in the years of the early 1970s.

We think that that is wrong. We think that the government is wrong. We think that the reasons that the government has offered are also, may I say it, misleading.

[9:00]

Let me just read what the Treasurer had to say in his budget statement. He says, as the minister said, that the government remains committed to its policy of discouraging non-productive speculative activity. I assume that what is being permitted by this particular bill, these particular hand-outs to speculators, is productive speculative activities, and I wish that the minister would define exactly what those happen to be. Or else I would assume that the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. McKeough), the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener), maybe the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett), and the other economic panjandrums of the cabinet will go around the various conventions of groups, such as the association of public real estate companies, the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, and the Urban Development Institute, and make speeches, telling them, "Please don't speculate. It's nonproductive, and it's not a good thing."

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Invest in development.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right. They make these speeches, but they are not willing to back up their speeches with any effective kind of action.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: So naive. Does the member think it is the OMB that is holding up development?

Mr. Cassidy: We have had a tax on land transfers which the minister said discouraged foreign investment. But then the Treasurer said in his budget that the land speculation tax required a longer than desirable commitment by non-residents who wish to buy investment properties in Ontario, that 10 years was too long for non-residents. What the Treasurer is saying, and what this minister is apparently supporting, is the view that we should encourage non-residents to come in, buy up property, and sell it and make speculative profits after three or four or five or six years, because 10 years is too long to require them to hold the property. That is precisely what is being said in this particular budget and for this particular bill.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You probably haven't heard of the Rent Review Board yet.

Mr. Cassidy: A substantial pool of capital normally available to resident developers has, says the Treasurer, therefore dried up. I don't understand why it is; the province of Ontario can have a triple-A bond rating down in New York, but Ontario developers can also get a good bond rating if they want to borrow money in New York, Hong Kong or Dusseldorf. At any rate, those were the only reasons that were offered by the Treasurer for this particular change in the land speculation tax. They are fallacious, they are specious, they are hypocritical and they are wrong, and we intend to oppose this bill.

We believe it is important to keep a protection against short- and medium-term speculation. We believe it is wrong to have that kind of activity happening with apartments. It is wrong to have people buying up older homes and trying to resell them at massive profits, and it is particularly wrong to have people like former cabinet ministers and other people like that, all of the good gentry of the province, buying up semi-urban land, farm land, and that kind of land, in or around our major cities, holding it in order to make major speculative gain and not having more than a finger lifted against them by the Ontario government, effective with the passage of this Act.

Mr. Martel: Those capitalists.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: A cynical socialist speaking.

Mr. Roy: I can recall when this legislation was first brought forward and the awful mess that the legislation was in at that time. I can recall discussions on this legislation for a period of approximately a month. I can recall the Minister of Revenue, then Arthur Meen, who could not accept some of the recommendations that this party was making at the time. If you will recall, at that time the tax proposed was, I think, 50 per cent on the

speculative profit, and there had been no agreement made with the federal government, with the result that if one was paying federal taxes at the rate of 50 or 60 per cent, one would end up paying something like 110 per cent on the profit. In other words more tax than there was profit.

We tried to get through to the minister, time and time again, day after day in this House. I can recall discussing this legislation with the minister and explaining to him that he was wrong, that he should have obtained the consent of the federal government at that time. I don't like to be nasty to a member who is no longer here, but the man had no flexibility at all. In that sense, he caused an awful lot of confusion in the marketplace. The remarks we made at the time legislation was passed were borne out. In fact, the federal government disallowed the deduction that the province thought they could have under this Act, and they had to backtrack on the tax.

But I can recall during the month of debate on this legislation that we tried to make the legislation workable. This was one aspect. This was the most obvious deficiency in the legislation. But there were many others, as you will recall. And at that time we in this party—and I can recall my colleagues Singer, Bullbrook and others—were talking on this legislation to try to make it a workable piece of legislation.

But as I said earlier, I felt that the combination of government controls—and this is another piece of government control—that along with the increase in the interests rates and with the other land transfer tax was a blow that was too hard to the economy of this province. In fact, what it did do is stifle the economy of the province with the resulting unemployment that we have here today.

Now the member for Ottawa Centre has, as usual, misconstrued the remark from my colleague from Sarnia. We at no time, nor did he at any time, suggest that we're prepared to accept the type of inflation which existed on real property during that period of time.

Mr. Cassidy: That's what they called for.

Mr. Roy: I find it highly improper that he would misconstrue these comments and I find it typical of that member, that when he talks about speculative property he doesn't mention the profit made by his own leader on a piece of property.

Mr. Cassidy: How much did you get for your house?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: What about your house?

Mr. MacDonald: How much did you get for your house?

Mr. Roy: I only mention that point, not out of criticism of his leader—he's entitled to a profit.

Mr. Cassidy: The member is as phoney as a \$3 bill.

Mr. Havrot: "Profit" is a dirty word.

Mr. Roy: To us a profit is not sinning. You know, that's where we're different to the party over there. Profit to us is not a sin. We feel that in a private enterprise system, profit is what drives the economy, this is what creates jobs. And these people are against unemployment, they say.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: I say it's somewhat fallacious and I find it somewhat cynical that certain members should get up in the House and talk about speculators as though they are a bunch of villains across this province.

Mr. Martel: Parasites.

Mr. Roy: Some are, some are. But you'd best be careful that you should not be so selective when you're talking about certain people speculating on land. What we're saying in supporting this legislation now is that there are enough controls. People who want to get involved in the economic activity of this province are what this country's all about. Once economic activity is created this affects a lot of people involved in the construction of apartment buildings, these represent their retirement plans. Often this is their only investment, the purchase and selling of a particular type of property. And we don't feel that there is anything wrong in that sort of thing. The speculation that we were after in 1973 and 1974 was, in fact, speculation on raw land where people were buying land, keeping it for a month or two and selling it at speculative profits.

Mr. Cassidy: What a sellout, what a sellout.

Mr. Roy: This is what we were against. We were against, for instance, certain buyers who would buy from large developers, keep the property for six months or so and then sell at a profit.

Mr. Cassidy: If only the poor people of Ottawa East could see this statement—boy!

Mr. Roy: This type of thing, we say, is still protected under this legislation.

Mr. Cassidy: The member voting against the interest of his constituents.

Mr. Roy: But what we're basically saying—and this is where I find the cynicism of the NDP argument—is that they are—

Mr. Lawlor: Now you are leaving the barn door wide open.

Mr. Cassidy: He wants a licence to steal from the people of Ottawa East.

Mr. Roy: —so hung up on principles that they cannot be selective, that they can't select a villain.

Mr. Cassidy: And you have none.

Mr. Roy: In their overall principles, of course—and this is why their socialist approach has got them where it's got them; you're in third place and you're going to continue going down—

Mr. Laughren: Cross the floor.

Mr. Cassidy: I think you are in the Minister of Revenue's lap.

Mr. Roy: What we're saying basically, Mr. Speaker, in our comments on this legislation is that the government made a mistake back in 1974. We in this party made every effort possible to try to make it a workable piece of legislation. What's we're saying to the government, is that at that time, back in 1974, I think there's a recognition that you were going much too far, that you showed no foresight. And it's thank God for this party that some of the pitfalls in the legislation were curbed. So, basically, what we're saying now is that the economic situation requires a different type of stimulus. This is why we in this party believe in private enterprise, and the more controls we can get off the better it is going to be. That is where we are different from the people to our left.

Mr. Warner: Tell that to Ottawa.

Mr. Roy: So what we are saying basically is that at this time we feel it is proper to support this type of legislation because we believe in a private enterprise system. We have nothing against profit.

Mr. Laughren: Cross the floor.

Mr. Roy: And we feel that in the long term this will create more accommodation and hopefully over a period of time we will be able to get rid of one more control—rent control—

Mr. Laughren: Cross the floor.

Mr. Roy: —another type of control that in the long term we would like to see removed in this province. In other words we believe in individuals rather than controls imposed by governments—

Mr. Cassidy: Individual exploiters, yes.

Mr. Roy: —and this is why we are supporting this legislation.

Mr. Martel: As a Liberal, John, you support that.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: Mr. Speaker, the thing that worries me about this bill, particularly

about the future of Canada and of Ontario, is the oft-expressed view both from the Conservatives and the Liberals that we need foreign people to come in and do things for us. Those guys had better grow up. It is about time both parties stopped waiting for somebody to come around and wipe their fanny or blow their nose.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: This country is big enough and this province is old enough to be able to do things on their own.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: As a result of what the government is trying to do with this land speculation tax, we have to depend on somebody else to come in and do things for us.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Are the socialists going to do it?

Mr. Makarchuk: The government hasn't the guts to stand up on its own two feet.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: That's an expression. Its actions on this bill express the kind of confidence the government has in this country and the direction it would go if it had full control.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You cynics.

Mr. Makarchuk: No other western civilized country in the world allows foreign speculators to come in and do the things to its economy, to its land, to its country, that we do in this country.

Mr. Roy: What about the US?

Mr. Makarchuk: Yes, how about the US. If you compare the economies of those particular countries in terms of either productivity, in terms of growth, in terms of employment, in any factor including standard of living, you will find that they are higher than they are in this country.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Are you talking about Switzerland or Luxembourg?

Mr. S. Smith: You are talking nonsense and you know it.

Mr. Makarchuk: The thing about it is that they did it by themselves. You take a little country like Sweden—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Cuba, Cuba.

Mr. Makarchuk: Seven million people, John, less than the province of Ontario.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Pope: What? Are you crazy?

Mr. Makarchuk: It is able to build an automobile—

Mr. Mackenzie: You are going downhill—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for Brantford has the floor.

Mr. Makarchuk: The point in all this is that the nations are able, through government intervention, to make their economy grow without having to depend on somebody else to come do it for them.

Mr. Cassidy: The Swedish vote will desert you entirely in the next election.

Mr. Makarchuk: If one looks at the amount of capital the people generate in this country—and some of the members really should look. As I said the other night, forget Adam Smith. Even try to look at Milton Friedman perhaps. But forget that and look at the fact that we in this country generate more capital than we invest. Canadians actually, on a per capita basis, invest more than the Americans. Everything—the ingredients, the resources, the finances, are all here that we could use, that we could build, that we could develop without having to go somewhere else—without having to ask other people to do it.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Haven't got enough.

Mr. Makarchuk: It's here, and yet we refuse to act in that direction. We pander to speculators, to people who basically shuffle paper and nothing else. They don't contribute one iota to a community. There is no contribution made whatsoever.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Confiscate.

[9:15]

Mr. Makarchuk: If you look at the major wealth that has been produced in this country you will find out that the wealth hasn't been produced by people who came in with new products and new factories and developed new resources. The wealth in this country has been developed by people who have been shuffling paper, buying land, reselling it and making their big deals in that way.

If you read *The Canadian Establishment*, as an example, and watch the Canadian lumber barons fighting with each other, are they really fighting in terms of innovation or new products? No, they are fighting in terms of how they can take over one major enterprise from a person holding another enterprise; and, of course, they line up the banks and so on and have their little paper battle. But in terms of solid contribution to productivity, to growth in this economy, there is really nothing there.

What the government is doing in this Act and in this kind of legislation is encouraging that kind of nonsense to go on to the detri-

ment of the country and to the detriment of the people and everybody else. During the election the Tories went out and wrapped themselves in the flag; that's a very easy thing to do. But when it comes to doing the economic things that make this country valuable to its people and provide the things that the people of this country need and deserve, the Tories refuse to move in that direction—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Control, control, control, and tax, tax, tax.

Mr. Makarchuk: —because they are fat and comfortable and they are desperate.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Regulate, regulate, regulate.

Mr. Makarchuk: And they are scared—

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: All they do is to wait for somebody else: "As long as I'm okay, Jack, it's fine. That's all I'm concerned about."

Mr. Gregory: Why don't you speak about the bill?

Mr. Cunningham: Sell your boat. Give your boat away.

Mr. Makarchuk: The member for Ottawa East says that this encourages private enterprise, that this encourages growth—

Mr. Cunningham: Give your boat away.

Mr. Makarchuk: But when we have the Ronto situation, for example, where a speculator goes in—

Mr. Cunningham: Sell your boat. Give your boat away.

Mr. Makarchuk: Has the member got a price in mind?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Makarchuk: For a price I will sell it to him.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: Where a speculator comes in—

Mr. Cunningham: You NDP phoneys, you sit and postulate about socialism—

Mr. Makarchuk: —and makes a profit of \$10 million on some property—

Mr. Cunningham: You suck and blow at the same time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Makarchuk: —which adds a cost of approximately \$5,000—

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, control that man.

Mr. Makarchuk: Yes, he's apoplectic.

Mr. Cunningham: Give your boat away and your stock away.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cunningham: For the record, he laughed when I talked about stock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Makarchuk: The member has a phobia about boats.

Mr. Cunningham: I will never have a boat.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Would the member for Wentworth North please contain himself?

Mr. Cunningham: If the member for Brantford will take me on his boat.

Mr. Makarchuk: I will. I will.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Would the member for Brantford please keep his remarks on this bill?

Mr. Wildman: The member is at sea.

Mr. Makarchuk: The minister is aware of this one: Ronto comes in and takes \$10 million out of a community; it adds a minimum of about \$5,000 to the cost of each housing unit. What that really means is a few people have walked away with a lot of money and a lot of people who are going to go in there will have to pay for this. Once they are paying the money that is going to the speculators, they are not buying the goods and services; they are not buying the fridges, the stoves, the furniture and all those other things that provide jobs and consumption and make this a vibrant and lively economy. They are not doing that. They can't afford to.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: No, you have got to have resource industries.

Mr. Makarchuk: That's the kind of situation the government is trying to encourage.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Oh, no.

Mr. Makarchuk: The minister says oh, no. I suppose it's something else.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You've got to develop your basic industries.

Mr. Makarchuk: That's right. But the basic industries we have have been here for a long time. There haven't been too many of them developed recently. They may have been expanded—

Interjection.

Mr. Makarchuk: If the minister brings in all these arguments about freeing free enterprise, I just wonder in what way are they curtailed? What isn't so free about them? How are they constrained? By what means? Who is constraining them? They damned near can do anything they want. They can pollute our waters. They can pollute our air. They can vandalize our society.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Stick to the bill.

Mr. Makarchuk: They can make unlimited fortunes. If there were some constraints on

free enterprise, we would see some kind of shift in income in our society.

Interjection.

Mr. Makarchuk: If we look at the distribution of income in our society, it hasn't changed. It has changed a bit: The rich have got richer.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Them who works, gets.

Mr. Makarchuk: Obviously there isn't any kind of constraint on free enterprise. And when we say constrain some of the free enterprise, all we are saying is, "For God's sake, go ahead and do what is decent and reasonable and socially useful but, in the meantime, don't destroy the environment or vandalize our society." Is this asking too much?

An hon. member: No, no.

Mr. Makarchuk: Is this above and beyond reason? I don't think so, and neither does the minister.

Mr. Eakins: Good speech.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mac for leader.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Makarchuk: I just find the continuation of this bill abhorrent. This is a sellout. It's one of those government actions which—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Karl Marx would admire you.

Mr. Makarchuk: —people will eventually have to pay for. It's a lack of confidence in its own ability to build, to create, to do things. It's a lack of confidence in the people of this country, and the government expresses it in this kind of legislation.

Mr. Eakins: Where is Samis tonight!

Mr. Roy: You've got a real socialist up there tonight.

An hon. member: Thirty-three of them.

Mr. Wildman: Well, he has got a reason to be unsure of himself.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

An hon. member: Give your boat to charity.

Mr. Makarchuk: In conclusion—listen, I've got another boat coming up. A larger one.

Mr. Breithaupt: He would like to have his own navy.

Interjection.

Mr. Makarchuk: Yes, of course.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Makarchuk: I would also like to point out the reluctance that is expressed to have government involvement. Mr. Speaker, if you

look at the economies of the United States, if you look at the economies of Canada, you find out that the periods of greatest growth were when you had government involvement or you had the greatest spending on social services. If you look, the greatest growth in this country was when we had a socialist economy during the war years, when the government was involved that time. When you started off that growth, that continued for a long time.

Mr. Havrot: Like in England, eh? Tell us about England.

Mr. Makarchuk: Do you want to look at West Germany? Do you want to look at Japan? Do you want to look at Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark? Do you want to look at some of those countries? Look at them and compare their productivity and their per capita growth to our country and you'll find out they are 'way ahead, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Havrot: Tell us about China.

Mr. Makarchuk: We are somewhere on the level with Kuwait, that's where we are.

The reason basically, of course, is that we wait for somebody else to do it. And, of course, they do it to us, no question about it. During the election, where does the Premier (Mr. Davis) go? He goes to New York and says, "Hey fellows, I've got a province to plunder. Come on down, bring your money in," that's what he does.

Interjections.

Mr. Makarchuk: They can see a mark. They're used to dealing with a mark. They can see a mark coming for a long way.

Mr. Havrot: Just like Barrett in British Columbia.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the member for Brantford have any more comments in regard to Bill 14?

Interjections.

Mr. Pope: That reminded him.

Mr. Makarchuk: In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, what worries me are the facts and the minister's actions in the Lynden Hill Farms case. I know she remembers that case very well and I hope it doesn't die; we intend to resurrect it in the public accounts committee.

The owner of the property in an interview with the Globe and Mail said that he was promised that he was going to get a speculation tax exemption. Of course, in the discussions and in the House, the minister said, "Oh no, it's something we negotiate and we're going to continue negotiating."

I suggest that from now on what the minister does is ensure that her department collects the money ahead of time. While she has the money then we ought to negotiate with the people for the exact sum. I think that's a fairer way of operating these things than letting them sit out there.

Mr. Cassidy: Hear, hear. What about Ronto as well?

Mr. Laughren: Tell us about Ronto.

Mr. Makarchuk: Hopefully, if things are quiet, I'm sure she wouldn't forget about it. I have a feeling that the promises were made somewhere in the past and nothing would happen.

I think one of the things missing out of this legislation is that the tax should be collected at the time of the transaction and when there is a dispute—it's done at the federal level—then what you do is you sort it out afterwards, but at least you have the money, Mr. Speaker. In some cases you may be able to collect the money after the event, but in a lot of cases you'll find that it's salted away in the banks in Switzerland, or Panama, or the Bahamas or someplace and there is no way you can touch it.

Mr. Cunningham: You're as bad as Eddie. Come on down.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Tell us about the Swiss banks.

Mr. Martel: I will tell you about how this government would pay for lunch.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Gee, I wish I had one.

Mr. S. Smith: Is that Moog you are talking about? The Premier doesn't understand German—

Mr. Makarchuk: The other thing is because of the problems involved in the land speculation tax, in the granting of tax, is that the minister should make it a procedure to report regularly, something like the Securities Exchange Commission does, to the members of House when exemptions are granted and on what grounds the exemptions are granted.

There should be a regular report coming out of the ministry on those things. We should not have to go and hunt afterwards, get it somewhere in a back room and so on, and then try to find out just what happened and why did it happen, and why did somebody get an exemption? These are the kinds of things that we should know a responsible minister is going to report to the House when they do something of this nature. If a minister has nothing to hide, there's no reason why it should be kept secret.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Order, order. This is not on the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Makarchuk: And every time the government keeps it secret, I question why it is being kept secret.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The member for Oriole.

Mr. Williams: The member for Brantford—

Mr. Roy: Tremble in your seats.

Mr. Williams:—continued on his high level of illogical argument this evening as he did this afternoon, and I'll speak to that in a moment or two. But in so doing, I'll endeavour to stay on the principle of the bill, which is something that's been lacking in the debate that's been ensuing over the past 15 or 20 minutes.

Mr. Mackenzie: It will be a first for you.

Mr. Warner: Why don't you read us the budget?

Mr. Cassidy: Yes, why don't you?

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, there's no question that the two bills that we're debating this evening, The Land Transfer Tax Act amendment and—

Mr. Laughren: No, we are only debating one.

Mr. Williams:—the land speculation tax amendment are indeed two of the most important tax bills that will come before this House this session.

Mr. Lawlor: You're telling me—a big sell-out.

An hon. member: Ah, sit down.

Mr. Williams: And I think it's regrettable—

Mr. Cassidy: There is only one bill now being debated.

Mr. Williams:—that amendments to the very broad terms of the original bills that are before us today have to be attributed to a slack economy. I would hope to think that these initiatives are being taken by the government, whether the economy had been less than at peak or otherwise—

Mr. Lawlor: Still inflation. There is still inflation in the land. It hasn't changed.

Mr. Williams:—because it has become quite evident since the inception of the original legislation that the bills have been too punitive for the legitimate types of businesses that have wanted to do business in this province, both domestically speaking and with regard to foreign corporations. It's all well and good for my friend from Brantford to suggest that no foreign investment is needed in this country—

Mr. Cassidy: Better ask your minister friends.

Mr. Williams: —when in fact it's well understood by people who perhaps have some understanding of the real world—those of us who have had an opportunity to actually work in the private sector.

Mr. Cassidy: You wouldn't recognize the real world if you found it.

Mr. Williams: It would be interesting to determine just how many of the members of the—

Mr. Martel: Sidney Handleman isn't going to like that. Nor is Bill Newman.

Mr. Williams: —third party who speak so strongly against the free enterprise system have personally ever had the opportunity to involve themselves in that free world.

Mr. Cassidy: Oh, come on. Rubbish.

Mr. Williams: It's very easy to sit up—

Mr. Warner: I worked in a sweat shop. That is free enterprise.

Mr. Williams: —in an ivory tower and make comments, but when they don't understand the free world—

Mr. MacDonald: That is an ignorant statement.

Mr. Lawlor: If you think that the real world is—

Mr. Williams: —I guess you have to give them a certain amount of licence to do that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, obviously they speak through lack of knowledge and so one has to have some sympathy towards them. But at the same time—

Mr. Wildman: You and Franco would be great buddies.

Mr. Williams: —when you hear them using the term “hypocritical” and “specious arguments,” I think they have to look at themselves when they make use of that terminology. The fact of the matter is that the companies that are dissuaded from investing in our province through this type of inhibiting legislation are the very companies that employ the tradesmen, the craftsmen and the union people who are so anxious to participate in activities in the labour market for the job opportunities available to them.

Mr. Wildman: How does speculation produce jobs?

Mr. Williams: It's well known that the base of our economy is founded in two or three sectors—

Mr. MacDonald: Back to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Williams: —one of which is the auto industry, the other of which is the real estate

development field, and the building of not only residential real estate undertakings but also commercial and industrial.

Mr. Wildman: It is the first time I have ever heard a Tory say speculation produces jobs.

Mr. Williams: It seems to me that for purposes of emotional impact the member for Ottawa Centre continues to stress the arguments related to simply residential costs of building which, of course, is an important consideration. But too, the prohibitive costs of commercial and industrial building are inhibiting factors that have steered legitimate businesses in the construction industry away from Ontario into other areas, not only into the southern United States, but also into adjoining provinces. This is well understood and recognized, and it's regrettable that many of our own domestic corporations have seen fit to move south of the line, not with any malice at all but because they felt there was a more positive business climate prevailing in that area with some of the negative aspects of it probably being attributable to this legislation.

[9:30]

We don't think it has been that bad to drive out business, but it has had some negative impact. I think the Treasurer, and the minister speaking today, have given some recognition to this fact. I think the government, in being prepared to realistically recognize the problem is prepared to make adjustments—

Mr. Wildman: If you have got to be negative it is better to be only partially negative.

Mr. Williams: —to accommodate, realistically, the business sector, realizing that so long as the business sector is healthy, then so too the trades and unions are healthy, their people are working, the economy as a whole is stimulated.

Mr. Wildman: What is good for General Motors is good for the world.

Mr. Williams: In fact the province as a whole has to benefit from that type of productive climate. So to listen tonight to the hypocritical comments that have come from members of the third party, criticizing the private sector—

Mr. Cassidy: You would have us mortgage our futures.

Mr. Williams: —when that is the very basis on which they enjoy the high standards of living that we have in this province, and when that is the base from which we all derive our high standards of living and enjoyment, and from which we derive our taxes

from which we, as a government, have the responsibility to provide and do provide the socially-useful programs that our friend from Brantford talks about, but which we cannot bring about unless we have sufficient moneys in the public coffers to undertake those programs.

Mr. Makarchuk: How much did Ronto pay?

Mr. Williams: You can't tax ourselves to bring that money into hand, we have to get it from the private sector.

So for the opposition party, the third party, to criticize and condemn and try to prevent growth in the private sector, they're simply cutting off their nose to spite their face and they know it.

That is the hypocritical part of the argument. Why don't they be honest and admit to it, and at least spend some time in giving some recognition to that area of our provincial economic activity that is deserving of support? And that has to be in the private sector, you cannot continue to debate, forever and a day in this House, issues as though they're black and white.

Mr. Cassidy: But that's precisely what you are doing. You dismiss everything as the government does.

Mr. Williams: That is a point that I raised at the time of the budget debate, that the biggest weakness and the reason the third party is now back where it deserves to be, as the third party, is the fact that they don't talk to the three basic issues.

They talk about big government and they talk about big business; I've never yet heard of them talk about and relate the importance of big unions in the overall triumvirate situation that prevails in this province. Until they're prepared to honestly deal with all three aspects of those influencing factors in our economy, no one is going to give total credibility to the arguments they raise in this House.

Mr. Wildman: Thank you, Napoleon Bonaparte.

Mr. Cassidy: You talk about big business.

Mr. Williams: So, Mr. Speaker, in coming back to the principles of these bills that are before us this evening, it is imperative that these bills move forward.

Mr. Cassidy: Why don't you attack the unions?

Mr. Williams: They indeed will provide additional encouragement and stimulation to the private sector. I can only give total support, as did the other members of this party, to the official opposition party in giving unqualified support to this legislation, but I

think that's the type of positive response and attitude that must prevail in this House and through which we will achieve many more initiatives and bring about positive legislation that will benefit the people of this province.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to deal with three unrelated points. The first one—

An hon. member: Speak to the bill.

Mr. MacDonald: Oh, they're related to the bill, but they themselves are not related.

The first one is the cheap intervention of the hon. member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy)—I'm sorry he has gone out of the House. You know he knows, as a lawyer, and everybody knows, that when we dealt with the land speculation tax we deliberately exempted principal dwellings, and this personal intervention to drag in the alleged profit that the hon. leader of this party made when he sold his house is precisely what he's going to do when he sells the house he lived in for a number of years and bought for a low price and is going to sell for a "profit".

That's a mixing of issues that we all know is a deliberate and calculated mixing; and if the hon. member doesn't know then he's not worthy of his legal profession and of his position in this House.

Mr. Roy: Sit down. You don't know what you're talking about; you put them all in the same bag, all speculators.

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Ottawa East has already had his turn to speak on the principle of the bill. The hon. member for York South will continue.

Mr. Roy: On a point of order, he misconstrued my comments.

Mr. Martel: You don't have a point of order.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for York South will continue.

Mr. MacDonald: The Speaker is so right. The member for Ottawa East had his turn and he said nothing except—

Mr. Roy: If I said nothing, what's getting you so excited?

Mr. MacDonald: I am not getting excited. Just in case a few of his colleagues are as confused as he is, I was trying to make certain that they didn't get mixed up in the confusion.

Mr. Roy: You poor, poor socialists.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, let me move to the second point that I wanted to underline. There is one element of this bill which

we do support, and it is difficult to support one when the rest of it is so deplorable. I just want to underline what my colleague from Ottawa Centre has said with regard to the phasing out of the obligation to a land speculation tax for farm land.

I have been rather interested in this because as the agriculture and food critic for this party, I have had a number of people call up and say, "I understand you are in favour of protecting agricultural land," I said yes, and they said, "If at the end of 10 years a farmer wants to sell to a developer rather than to another farmer, aren't you encouraging speculation? Are you protecting agricultural land?" I say, "You've got a point."

It may well be that there's the odd person who has held his land for 10 years, or the person who has held land as a family farm for a long time who is going to sell it for speculative purposes. But the answer to that question is that if this government has got guidelines to protect agricultural land and those guidelines are something more than pure political rhetoric, and if those guidelines are ultimately backed up by law as this party seeks, as the Rural Ontario Municipal Association seeks, and as the Ontario Institute of Agrologists seeks, then it will be certain that no prime agricultural land is going to be sold for speculative purposes. It will be kept for food land production purposes.

So we acknowledge that after 10 years it is conceivable, with the inadequacy of other legislation that this government has at the moment, with guidelines that have no backing in law, that that might happen. We will watch it to see that it happens as little as possible.

My third point, Mr. Speaker, that I wanted to raise is this—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Who's going to do the farming?

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Perhaps the hon. members would refrain from interjecting. It is out of order; please allow the hon. member for York South to continue.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, with respect, this isn't an interjection. This is a competing debate.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right.

Mr. MacDonald: I was rather interested in noting in one of my previous incarnations in terms of ministerial responsibility as critic, that in 1974, as the budget credit for the New Democratic Party, I had some comments to make about the land speculation tax when it was first introduced. Mr. Speaker, forgive me—I rarely quote myself although I always

find it to be a reputable kind of quote. But I do on this occasion want to quote you three paragraphs because I think they are very prophetic:

"Clearly the government regarded its 50 per cent speculation tax as the headline grabber of the budget." This is 1974. "I venture the prediction that it will be the prize example of flim-flamming in a budget replete with it."

Mr. Cassidy: That's right.

Mr. MacDonald: "The effectiveness of the tax, so the provincial Treasurer argues, can be judged in advance by the fact that it will result in only \$25 million of revenue. There's as self-serving a statement as I have ever heard. It assumes that the tax will check speculation so effectively that there will be very little revenue. After all, most of the major developers have each made \$25 million in the last year or so."

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if the hon. member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) and the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) would extend the courtesy to the member for York South that he can continue his part in this debate.

Mr. MacDonald: With respect, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Haldimand-Norfolk wasn't even listening to you so I think you will have to repeat it.

Mr. Eakins: He was talking to the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick).

Mr. MacDonald: The hon. member for Riverdale was trying to quieten him down.

I was drawing attention to the fact that the government predicted they would get \$25 million in revenue; and that this was an indication, they said, of how effective their tax was going to be in damping down speculation, because they were only going to get \$25 million in revenue, when everybody knows there are many major developers who have made more than \$25 million in a year. In fact however, I added back in 1974: "There are so many exemptions granted and so many potential loopholes in the tax that the limited amount of revenue will be a measure of its ineffectiveness. The lawyers are going to have a Roman holiday and the developers will still be laughing all the way to the bank."

Mr. Speaker, just to show you how prophetic that statement was, the government contended they were going to get \$25 million in revenue, and that would be proof of the effectiveness in damping down speculation. Do you know what the record is; do you know what the statistics are?

Okay; in 1975-76, the first full year after the tax was introduced, the total amount of tax they got was not \$25 million in revenue; the loopholes were as big as a barn door, they got only \$3 million in revenue. That shows how far off the provincial Treasurer was in his estimates of how much revenue he was going to make from this. In 1976-77, do you know how much they made? Was it \$25 million; no, it was \$6 million. It was \$3 million the first year; \$6 million the second year.

Do you know what their estimate is for this year? It's \$9 million. I suspect it is as phoney as the original. That's the reason we are going to oppose this; because it is fallacious, it is opening up the doors to speculation when your efforts up to now have been wholly ineffective.

Mr. Ashe: I rise in support of this bill, the same as Bill 13, in that—

Interjections.

Mr. Ashe: That's right, isn't it? It appears to me that it is nice to be part of a government and part of a party that can recognize changing business climates, changing economic conditions, as with this particular one.

Mr. Peterson: You are so flexible you don't have any principles at all.

Mr. Makarchuk: You haven't got them, that's the problem.

Mr. Ashe: The official opposition also recognizes that things do change and that's probably why they are in full support of this particular bill as well. I don't think that's a negative aspect of any government, I think it is a positive aspect to realize that they can examine their policies, they can look at themselves in the mirror and recognize that sometimes things do change and changes are necessary. That really is what we are talking about in the bill just discussed some time—I was going to say a short time ago, but it isn't that any more; some-time ago it was Bill 13 and of course now it is Bill 14.

The hon. member for Brantford indicated there were certain members of the government party, and I suppose the official opposition party, who didn't really have the guts to stand up for our particular province in our economic condition. I find, really, it is just the opposite of that, that we can stand up and again recognize that we do need, quote, if you want to call it that way, "help" through foreign investment from time to time.

We do need investments, we do need the capital from other countries from time to

time. If you went along with all the regulation and negativism of the third party, nobody would be able to stand up because they wouldn't have the economic fortitude, they wouldn't have the muscle to stand up because they wouldn't have any income to stand up with.

Mr. Peterson: They have a new redneck over there.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Now hear this.

Mr. Ashe: The other real inconsistency I find when members speak to this bill, again relating to some of the inconsistencies of the third party in this instance: For example during the recent election campaign, and very conveniently, the leader of the then official opposition, no longer so, and the then member from my riding, no longer so, came out and made a grandstand appearance in meeting with the local elevator company which has had some economic problems in the last number of years. Of course, seeing they are in the elevator business, single-family dwellings really—

Mr. Breithaupt: That business does have its ups and downs.

[9:45]

Mr. Ashe: It has its ups and downs to say the least. But they don't really have much marketability on single-family dwellings. They really relate, of course, to apartment buildings from time to time, and to commercial businesses from time to time. Yet here they go down and talk to this company and let them cry on their shoulder to indicate that they're really concerned about jobs, they're really concerned about the elevator industry. Yet when we come forward with a particular piece of legislation that would probably be of some stimulus to the economic climate and the investment opportunities in this province to get the apartment investments going again—to get investments in commercial buildings going again possibly—they stand up and oppose it. That to me is completely irresponsible and completely inconsistent, to say the very least.

Mr. Cassidy: Does the member say that the only way to get building is to have unlimited speculation?

Mr. Ashe: Also on the same subject—

Mr. Cassidy: Is that what he says to do?

Mr. Ashe: —it is well recognized that one of the reasons that we have a shortage of apartments in our major urban areas is partially because of this particular unamended legislation—

Mr. Breithaupt: That's why the member's government brought them in.

Mr. Ashe: —and also because of rent controls, which the third party would support forever. And we know that that's the reason. The main reason for rent controls of course is the lack of supply. The lack of demand certainly isn't a problem. The demand is there but the supply has been lacking.

Mr. Warner: Your government brought in the legislation.

Mr. Ashe: If we had a climate of too many apartments on the market, we wouldn't have to worry about rent control because—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member would return to the principle of this bill.

Mr. Ashe: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cassidy: He should resign so that Charles Godfrey can come back.

Mr. Ashe: I apologize for wandering, but I've been indoctrinated by that kind of wandering now for a week and a half and it is rather difficult.

Mr. Warner: Sitting beside the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams).

Mr. Ashe: In closing, I can't support the arguments as put forward by any members of the third party in opposition to this bill. Again, I think the bill—the amendments to The Land Speculation Tax Act as it was to The Land Transfer Tax Act—will stimulate further investment in our economic climate in the province of Ontario. It will bring forward more overall opportunities for investment of a capital nature and also, to a degree, I suppose, of a speculative nature—yes, because I too am not opposed to the word profit. So we should expedite the passing of this legislation. And all those in clear conscience who are really truly involved and concerned about the economic conditions and who work in our province should support it.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for London Centre.

Interjection.

Mr. Peterson: With respect, it's our turn.

Mr. Martel: You weren't here.

Mr. Peterson: I just want to respond to that, for a couple of minutes. I don't intend to be long, but it amazes me to see a particularly new member from Durham West talking as if that party there is the only one which has any option on the free marketplace or understands the free market forces.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The only one that has been responding is the third party.

Mr. Peterson: They are the ones who brought in the bill, changed the bill, criticized my leader in 1975, called him the friend

of the speculators because he had some legitimate arguments to make at that particular time. They have no philosophy. They have no understanding of what makes the free marketplace operate. They move only with the forces of a particular time. And I have never seen a government with less philosophy, with less conception, that reacts more to whatever happens to be the principal forces at a particular time. And I'll tell them this—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You supported the bill in 1974.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: What is your philosophy?

Mr. Peterson: I want you to know, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member would return to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Peterson: I was not going to speak on that.

Mr. Cassidy: It is a good thing you are not opposing this legislation.

Mr. Peterson: We are going to support this because we think it's one step along the way.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Give us your philosophy.

Mr. Peterson: But what we resent is the sanctimonious attitude of the government sitting over there, thinking that they have the only option on veracity or truth in these circumstances. Let me say this, that we have an all-time low vacancy rate. We have a housing crisis of unparalleled proportions. All of it is the sum total of the cumulative policies of that government.

I say, with respect to my friends over here on the left, I hear them talk on both sides of every single issue—

Mr. Warner: We don't expect you to understand.

Mr. Peterson: —whether it's a question of more housing and less farm land or less farm land and more housing. They have never sat down and reconciled the entire thing. And I say that to them in fairness. We probably—and it's interesting to note that this party that I represent tonight has probably more faith in free market systems than any other party here in this House. Unabashedly I say that.

Mr. Warner: What party will you represent tomorrow night?

Mr. Lawlor: Probably true; a complete anarchist.

Mr. Peterson: I just want to lay this before the House tonight, that we are here, we are going to support the bill. If you have analysed

all of the things that the people of my party have said—

Mr. Cassidy: The weak, the poor, the disabled, the aged.

Mr. Lawlor: You would make Barry Goldwater blush.

Mr. Peterson: —that my former leader, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) said, when he was accused by the Premier of this province (Mr. Davis) as being “the friend of the speculator,” for saying almost exactly what the minister and what various other people in the government party have said tonight.

Mr. Cassidy: You are both friends of the speculator.

Mr. Peterson: It speaks, to me at least, as just a small measure of the sanctimonious nature of this government. I will tell you you have a long way to go before you truly understand: one, the free market forces; and two, before you have any consistent philosophy about what makes it all go.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We are still waiting for your philosophy. What is yours?

Mr. Peterson: With respect to you, my friend, I have absolutely no faith. Fortunately, the electorate has deemed you irrelevant, so it doesn't matter any more what they say to you.

But with respect to my friends over here, I say to you very honestly and very fairly, that you haven't really addressed your minds to the problem. My friend from Durham West was talking about rent controls and all of that nonsense. Let me tell you, all of this was brought in by your government as a reaction to perceived political problems.

Mr. Cassidy: You squeaked into that position.

Mr. Peterson: Not real problems but political problems. You have no right, in a sanctimonious mood, to come into this House and try to say those kind of things because you don't understand it, you don't understand the forces—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We still haven't got your philosophy.

Mr. Peterson: George, what are you yapping about?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We still haven't got your philosophy.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will not refer to another hon. member by his first name but rather by the riding he represents.

Mr. Peterson: In fairness now, if the hon. Minister of the Environment has something

very close to the heart he wants to say I would gladly defer to him.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We want your philosophy.

Mr. Grossman: Are you against the rent review?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Let's not have philosophy, let's speak to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Peterson: I'll tell you our philosophy, we have been consistent through the past year.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. I would again warn the hon. member that he should return to the principle of the bill. It is time that he respected the Chair's ruling and that you return to the principle of the bill without any further interruptions.

Mr. Lawlor: Tell him not to be so sanctimonious.

Mr. Cassidy: You are 100 per cent right, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Grossman: The voice of authority.

Mr. Peterson: In fairness, Mr. Speaker, several other speakers have alluded to various other bills that bear on the entire problem of producing housing in this particular province, particularly at this time. What I had hoped I have done, and perhaps I haven't, completely—

Mr. Grossman: Right.

Mr. Peterson: —is speak to this problem over the last two or three years in all the interrelating pieces of legislation.

The truth is, it has been a disaster. Whatever has happened heretofore has not worked. We welcome these changes as perhaps a quasi solution to the problem. We don't think it is the entire solution.

But I just want to say that when I sit here and listen to some of this nonsense I have heard, and I came in late tonight, from the member for Durham West, from some of my friends to the left, Mr. Speaker, I just have to say this, that—

Mr. Lawlor: How about the nonsense we have to listen to?

Mr. Peterson: —we haven't yet had a coherent answer to this problem, we support it only because it is in some small fraction an answer to that problem.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Great contribution.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, as one of eight members left in this Legislature who in fact was on the committee whose report prompted the speculation tax—

Mr. Peterson: You should be ashamed of yourself.

Mr. Martel: In fact we opposed it; the committee, in its findings, in fact opposed a land spec tax.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You what?

Mr. Martel: We opposed the land spec tax, the select committee.

Mr. Peterson: Elie is a friend of the speculators.

Mr. Martel: I want to remind you, I want to tell you who was on that committee just before I go on. Russell Rowe—I think some of the Tories who shot their face off tonight know Russell Rowe, the Speaker. Donald Deacon—do you know Donald Deacon?

Mr. Roy: A good man.

Mr. Martel: Right on. I'm going to come to him too.

Mr. Peterson: He is a great Canadian.

Mr. Martel: Douglas Kennedy.

Mr. Roy: Who is he?

Mr. Martel: I hope some of you Tories know these fellows—Nicholas Leluk, William Newman, Gordon Walker, Sidney B. Handelman, and there was Richard Smith from Nipissing.

An hon. member: Good man.

Mr. Martel: Let's get down to land speculation.

Mr. Grossman: Who else, Elie? Read the rest.

Mr. Martel: Well, there was my friend, the member for Hamilton, and myself.

Mr. Eakins: Last but not least.

Mr. Martel: We looked at this problem for well over a year—a year and a half.

Mr. Cunningham: At 50 bucks a day.

Mr. Martel: At 50 bucks a day. You want to believe it. In fact, we went to Europe, with all expenses paid.

Mr. Breithaupt: And how many came back?

Mr. Peterson: Don't look down your nose at these people, Elie.

Mr. Martel: Well, the report prompted the government to move.

Mr. Eakins: Tell us about the trip.

Mr. Martel: But the committee, in fact, opposed land speculation tax as a solution to the land problem.

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: And it recommended in two areas, the ownership of real estate by individuals, and commercial and corporate real estate ownership—for my friend from Durham who talked about investment. You know, Mr. Speaker, we had the people from the

real estate industry in and you might ask the present minister responsible. As we attempted to find out how much land they had, after three days of questioning we were no further ahead than when we started. No one knew a thing. They didn't know who owned the land. They didn't have a clue. And they couldn't tell us although they represented the majority of the corporations.

Mr. Cunningham: Could be in the cabinet.

Mr. Martel: Well, some of them are now in the cabinet, but they signed this. Now, we talk about hypocritical—private foreign sector investment is doing great things for us. Let me tell you what the government's friends signed. I am going to quote three or four—

Mr. Grossman: Didn't you support it?

Mr. Martel: I supported it, you are darn right.

Mr. Grossman: You were against the land speculation tax?

Mr. Martel: Yes, right. Commercial and corporate real estate ownership—the committee recommends the following: "The committee recommends, subject to recommendation 8, that all future acquisition of land in Ontario other than by individuals be restricted to corporations or ventures not less than 75 per cent owned by Canadian citizens or landed immigrants resident in Canada."

The committee felt that the only way to get at land speculation was to in fact have Canadians in control because in Germany we found out that there was a special tax write-off for German investors to purchase in Canada.

Mr. Eakins: Did you visit Hamburg?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: What is in Hamburg?

Mr. Wildman: It's not a hot dog, like some people over there.

Mr. Martel: We visited a number of German cities, including Bonn. But they in fact had a special tax because of which they didn't care how much they were charged in Canada or how much they sold it for, because they could write it off in Germany. Now, you can have all kinds of land speculation tax but it doesn't affect them one jot. They just pass it on. In fact, the member who is no longer here, I think my friend from—

An hon. member: Nipissing?

Mr. Martel: No, not Nipissing.

Mr. Grossman: You have got only one over there.

Mr. Martel: Well, he beat Glen Hodgson anyway.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Wouldn't buy his house.

Mr. Martel: But in Hodgson's riding the Germans had in fact purchased almost the whole of that area and Glen was absolutely perturbed that they could write off in Germany what they had purchased in Canada. In fact, it was one of the reasons he was very forceful in demanding that you don't have a land spec tax, that you don't allow foreign investors to purchase the land. You lease, which is being done in most of England today.

Industry in England is not buying, it's leasing. And industry in the United States isn't buying land, it's leasing. And the select committee who spent over a year studying it looked into it very carefully. My friend the member for Oriole should see the signatures. Of the seven signatures six of those are either in the cabinet, occupy Mr. Speaker's chair, and said we don't need investment of that nature in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: They obviously disagreed with the report.

Mr. Martel: No, they supported the report because they signed. What the government didn't do was pay any attention to the select committee report. Two of them are in the cabinet today—

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: Yes, two of them are in the cabinet. We hear all the claptrap that we've just gone through; those people over there don't understand free enterprise and foreign investment. Well, seven out of the 11 members came from that party. Didn't they understand? Get up and shoot your mouth off now.

An hon. member: They are in the cabinet, we aren't.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will use more parliamentary language.

[10:00]

Mr. Martel: The other two, of course, were Donald Deacon and Richard Smith. Yes, good members, but they too signed this document and now the hon. member is supporting land speculation. They didn't; they moved to get rid of it. Too bad he wouldn't.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: They knew they made a mistake.

Mr. Roy: Oh, no. A changing situation.

Mr. Martel: I'm going to quote a little more. Okay?

Mr. Roy: Oh, no.

Mr. Martel: Just for the hon. member. Under "Commercial and Corporate Real

Estate Ownership," recommendation No. 8 reads:

"The committee recommends that corporations less than 75 per cent owned by Canadian citizens or resident landed immigrants, who can establish that it is bona fide in the nature of their business to acquire land on a regular basis for real estate development or finance, have the option of becoming 75 per cent owned by Canadian citizens or resident landed immigrants as a condition of being entitled to continue to acquire land during the period required to obtain a fair price for corporations' shares on the Canadian market." The hon. member's friends again.

Mr. Roy: Did I sign that?

Mr. Martel: No, but his party was well represented, as was the Tory party; two are in the cabinet now, two are parliamentary assistants—

Mr. Grossman: And two of you.

Mr. Martel: —one is the Speaker, and there's my friend from London South (Mr. Walker). They were against the land speculation tax.

Mr. Grossman: And so were you.

Mr. Martel: So was I. And I'm still against it tonight.

Mr. Grossman: You're against the land speculation tax?

Mr. Martel: Yes. Because it's not a solution.

Mr. Grossman: You'd better speak to your colleagues.

Mr. Martel: They're against it.

Mr. Grossman: My constituents will be interested in that. Have you read the resolutions at your conference?

Mr. Roy: The member should listen to his colleague, the member for Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Martel: I listened very carefully.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: Now, in the private sector, what are we talking about? These Tories, who don't know anything—just the New Democrats—what did they sign?

Mr. Grossman: What about the resolutions at your convention? Are you against the land speculation tax, McClellan?

Mr. McClellan: Don't blow all your fuses.

Mr. Martel: I'd like to remind you, Mr. Speaker that seven of the 11 were Tories and six of them are still here.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Six of them are still here.

Mr. Martel: The Minister of the Environment made a mistake during the election.

He wanted to close the English-Wabigoon river system and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. F. S. Miller) told him no. Let the minister go and resolve that problem with his colleague while I talk about the land speculation tax—

Mr. Grossman: What clause of the bill is that?

Mr. Martel: What did we say about ownership of real estate by individuals?

"The committee recommends, subject to recommendation 2, that all future transfers of legal or equitable . . . interests in real property in Ontario to individuals, directly or indirectly, be restricted to Canadian citizens and landed immigrants resident in Canada" as a solution to getting rid of land speculation.

Mr. Roy: You are out of order.

Mr. Martel: No, I'm not. I'm talking about land speculation.

Mr. Roy: That's not what you are talking about.

Mr. Martel: I'm talking about what the hon. member's colleagues signed. I listened to all the claptrap from the new member, one of the new bright boys.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: We've got a lot of bright new members.

Mr. Martel: Yes, part of the \$3 million boys. He might read some of the reports that his colleagues signed.

Mr. Maeck: Times change. That was four years ago.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: It was a farce in 1975 when the government brought it in. It was argued in this House for about two months. Poor old Arthur was inflexible; day in, day out, we went through that ritual.

Mr. Grossman: How would you know? How did you vote on it?

Mr. Martel: Everybody said it wouldn't work. Less than two years later we are back, and I predict that before we are finished we'll remove the remainder.

Mr. Roy: Do you think so?

Mr. Martel: Yes, I think so, because the Arabs have money to invest, the Germans have money to invest, the Americans have money to invest—far greater than Canadians—and therefore they can absorb the tax. That's what the committee found. They can absorb the tax and simply pass it on to Canadians who might be wanting to buy.

Mr. Grossman: Would you revoke it if you got elected?

Mr. Martel: Well, they pass it on. I suggest to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick that he read the report. Why doesn't he go in his cubicle now, read the report and then come back? Just go and read the report and come back.

Mr. Grossman: Tell me if you would revoke it. Save me the trouble, Elie; would you revoke it?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick cease to interject in order that the member can carry on?

Mr. Conway: Throw him out.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. And perhaps the hon. member for Sudbury East would spend a little less time in debating the merits of the report that his committee submitted and relate his comments to the principle of this bill and continue the debate in that manner.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, you've got a bill which recommends a land speculation tax. The government established a committee which after a year and a half of study—

Mr. Roy: Of travel and study.

Mr. Martel: Travel and study.

Mr. Warner: Mostly travel.

Mr. Martel: —reported and recommended that land speculation tax wasn't the way to resolve the problem of investment of this nature and land speculation, and made all of these recommendations. The report led to the government introducing this stupid tax, which in fact is now cut in half and two years down the road we'll eliminate.

I suggest to you, based on the real study that was done with research available and so on, that we in fact move to the report and start to implement the recommendations, signed by seven Tories, which would end the speculation, because the ownership of land would rest with Canadians—recreational land, which my friend from Parry Sound is concerned about, there are a whole number of recommendations with respect to recreational land.

The report, and this is what bothers me after the government paying a considerable amount of money, has been almost totally ignored, except to introduce a crazy land speculation tax which you've cut in half, which cost the province I don't know how much in introducing it in the first place, because we spent two months on it. We've cut it in half again tonight, and we haven't answered the problem.

All of the documentation we could put together was that this would not end specula-

tion because of the vast amounts of money, the vast tax write-offs that other nations have and which they can simply pass on to the Canadian public in the form of a higher price, whether it'd be for a price of real estate when you purchase your home, whether it be in recreational land. Surely that's what we're interested in.

I don't need the claptrap from the member for Oriole or the new boy from Durham. Maybe they could read the report and come back and see who's right. Maybe they should read the debates from the last time around when we said it wouldn't work. As the former leader of the New Democratic Party quoted, the \$25 million you were going to make the first year was \$3 million.

Mr. Grossman: Did you vote against it?

Mr. Martel: Yes; I opposed it then for the same reasons I'm opposing it tonight, because in spite of the recommendation of the one group that did the study—

Mr. Grossman: NDPers, all against spec tax. We are in favour of spec tax.

Mr. Martel: —the study was thrown out except to bring in the crazy land spec tax. I suggest to you before you get so hidebound and critical about what socialists are doing, you might in fact read the report, Albert.

Mr. Roy: Elie, I like you personally; you're not a bad socialist.

Mr. Martel: No, don't give me the claptrap. Well, what else did the committee report, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Roy: You are making a very good speech.

Mr. Martel: You see what I'm trying to drive at, Mr. Speaker, is that we covered all the bases, very carefully.

Mr. Conway: Dick Smith wrote a good report.

Mr. Martel: Dick was in here. I give him credit for some of the material. He added to this report, particularly as it pertains to the forest industry and I give him credit for that.

Mr. Roy: And Dick said you were one of the better travelling companions.

Mr. Martel: Well, we crawled a few pubs in Europe, I must admit; but I really—

Mr. Conway: The minister's ears, please.

Mr. Martel: Yes, I won't go into that.

I would urge the government, for a change, to look at a select committee report, that's what they establish committees for, and based on the findings of the committee in fact start to implement it. Other provinces have, and they have eliminated land speculation, but you simply can't do it via this route.

They have too much money in foreign countries, such as the Arab nations; the Germans have special tax write-offs, which they simply pass on to us; the Americans have more disposable income than we have, which they pass on to the Canadians—

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: The select committee said—well I'll go back to it: "The committee recommends that corporations or ventures less than 75 per cent owned by Canadian citizens or resident landed immigrants be entitled to obtain leasehold interest in land in Ontario on terms appropriate to their commercial needs."

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You don't suppose Canadians can build, do you?

Mr. Martel: Now we didn't rule out the Americans coming in and investing, we're just saying that they would have to lease the land; and this is what many American firms are doing, both in the United States itself and as they invest in Europe. They're simply leasing. As my friend the member for Brantford said, they know a mark, they know a mark.

Mr. Warner: Come to Ontario!

An hon. member: Biggest suckers around.

Mr. Martel: They simply pass it on to the Ontario consumer. I'm saying to the Minister of the Environment, if he wants to get into the act, read the report and you too will support us.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I did.

Mr. Martel: Aw you didn't, George; not at all.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I thought it was terrible.

Mr. Martel: We provided for the Americans to invest and to continue to build, if that's what you're concerned about; and the trade unionists having jobs and so on, in response to the member for Oriole. We provided a loophole based on—

Mr. Grossman: Loophole?

Mr. Martel: —what they're doing in the States already and based on what they're doing as they invest in Europe, whether it be England or other nations in Europe proper, they're doing it. There is no loophole, it's leaseholds.

Mr. Grossman: There is no loophole?

Mr. Deans: You are not allowed to quote people back. Don't you know the rules of the game?

Mr. Grossman: I have left the rules.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I think I've tried to drive the point home that we've heard

claptrap from over there. In fact, what they did was run down their own two cabinet ministers, their two parliamentary assistants and the return of the member for London South who also signed that document. I suggest, before the member for Oriole shoots his mouth off as he did tonight, that he reads what was said.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You'll never live it down.

Mr. Grossman: That's not parliamentary language.

Mr. Martel: His colleague signed this. As I sit down I suggest my friend from Ottawa East reads the report, too, because his colleagues, like us, wanted to get rid of land speculation and saw this as the only way to do it.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That was the rule in those days. Times have changed.

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister is rising on a point of order. Would you state your point of order?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, we've just had a very neat, although wordy, rationale from the member for Sudbury East about the various events and important considerations which led up to the report of the committee on foreign investment.

Mr. Martel: Right.

Mr. Deans: What is out of order?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: And this was, apparently, to be an important basis in our considerations here this evening.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Would you state your point of order, please?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: But I think he forgets that there was a most important constitutional problem which was before the committee at that time.

Mr. Martel: State your point of order.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Most certainly. This is a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and I haven't had an opportunity to state it.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Would the hon. minister state her point of order, very briefly. I haven't heard the point of order at this time.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I haven't had the opportunity to state it, Mr. Speaker, beyond the fact that I am pointing out that the member has been misinforming the House.

Mr. Martel: Oh, wait a minute.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. I hope I didn't hear what I thought I heard. Is the

hon. minister accusing an hon. member of misinforming the House or misleading the House?

Mr. Deans: Now we have a point of order.

Mr. Martel: On a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Careful.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I am not. No, Mr. Speaker, I am not.

Mr. Martel: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I've had so many interruptions, Mr. Speaker, from the opposite bench and from yourself that I haven't been able to get a sentence out.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member for Sudbury East will permit the hon. minister to continue her point of order.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the member has been misinforming the House because I think he forgets—

Mr. Martel: Wait a minute, Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —a most important point which was part of the consideration of that select committee at that time. It was that there was a constitutional problem which was then before the federal government in terms of the Prince Edward Island attempt to control non-resident land ownership at that time, and it was before the Supreme Court of Canada. It was a most important consideration and, as a result of that, the select committee then had to alter its recommendation to the government—

Mr. Martel: No, it didn't.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. It is the Chair's assessment that that is not a point of order. Perhaps the hon. minister might respond to the comment that the hon. member for Sudbury East made during her remarks at the conclusion of the debate.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I suggest the minister withdraw the statement she made with respect to that fact that I had misled the House. The select committee—and I have before me its report—dealt with the constitutional issue in its report. I might quote, Mr. Speaker, if I might.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Ah, get to the root of it.

Mr. Martel: "The committee recommends that the government of Ontario take the position that legislation along the lines proposed by the committee is unambiguously in

relation to property and civil rights in the province in the matters of a local and private nature. In regard to ownership of land by corporations, the committee" and so forth.

What we recognized was that there was a possibility of a constitutional issue. We said: "The committee recommends the government of Ontario take the position that legislation of the kind the committee has recommended with respect to real property in the provinces within the powers of the province—"

I have it before me. And we had as our counsel one Ivan Feltham who taught law at Osgoode and who had this issue checked out. [10:15]

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. I would have to check Hansard to make certain of the remarks of the hon. minister as to whether she did indicate that you had misled the House or were misleading the House or—

An hon. member: Misinformed.

Mr. Acting Speaker: —was misinformed. Perhaps the hon. minister might like to clarify that point, whether she did say that. If she did, I would ask her to withdraw it, and I would also ask her to pass comment—rather than a point of order—concerning the other remarks during her concluding remarks on second reading.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, can you advise the House if, in fact, the hon. minister did have a valid point of order and the hon. member for Sudbury East did have a valid point of privilege.

Mr. Acting Speaker: As far as the Chair is concerned, there was no point of order and I do not believe there was a point of privilege.

Mr. Martel: With the greatest of respect—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Are you challenging the Speaker's ruling?

Mr. Martel: Speaking to the point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the minister said that I, in fact—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has already spoken to his point of privilege and this isn't a debate. Perhaps we could continue with the principle of the bill on second reading in order that we might attempt to conclude the debate.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of privilege. The member for Sudbury East suggested that the member for Oriole shot his mouth off. I would point out to the member for Sudbury East that I never shoot my mouth off, that I always speak advisedly, which is more than I can say for the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Philip: You can go on for hours and hours.

Mr. Makarchuk: That's a lonely opinion.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member does not really have a point of privilege. Could we continue with the debate on second reading? The hon. member for Wentworth.

Mr. Deans: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Your leadership campaign is going down the hill.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: You won't get the over-65 vote.

Mr. Peterson: Go ahead, fur head. You are doing well.

Mr. Deans: That wasn't very nice.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Aren't you ashamed of yourself? You should be.

Mr. Peterson: I just said "fur head."

Mr. Deans: Don't you want to retract that? That was really despicable.

An hon. member: Take it back.

Mr. Deans: Why don't you take it back—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: —and be a gentleman? Be a gentleman for a change.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member for Wentworth will continue.

Mr. Deans: Having listened to the trivia from my colleague from London, let me just say that I have listened to a lot of this debate this evening, here and over the speaker in my office; I refer to the discussion of the free market system, put forward by members on the Conservative side and on the Liberal side of the House, both of them speaking of a system as if it somehow existed in the province of Ontario.

I think that to begin with, we have got to try to understand that whatever it is they conjure up in their mind as the free market system hasn't existed in this province for the best part of the last 50 years. The purpose of this legislation was surely to try to discourage the takeover of land in the province of Ontario by non-residents. That was the original purpose of it. It was an attempt to try to cut down on speculation. It was an attempt to discourage non-residents from owning land and using land in a speculative way.

I think we have reached a point at which there is an honest difference in the philosophical outlook of the parties—the Conservatives and the Liberals thinking that it's appropriate and within their concept of what's in the best interests of the economy of the province of

Ontario—to permit trading in land to take place without any consideration for the residency of the owners of the land and to allow the free flow of money in and out of the country, again without any consideration for the detrimental effect that it has on the cost to the people who live in this province and the people who have to pay the bills.

I don't quite understand why this took so long, but it seems to me that where we draw the line, where we differ, is this: While it might be expedient at this point in time, because of a slowdown in the development of the province of Ontario, to take some steps to try to encourage non-resident investors to invest further in the province and, thereby, hopefully bring about an upturn in the construction industry—in the long-term best interest of the province of Ontario, as it applies to this generation and to the next generation and to others beyond that, surely our responsibility is to try to guarantee that, above all other things, the ownership of land will remain in the hands of people who reside, and who make their home, and who have business interests here in the province of Ontario and throughout the remainder of the Dominion of Canada.

That's the issue. The issue isn't whether the government wants to take some steps right now to ease a problem that currently exists. If it wants to do that, so be it; let it do it with whatever other means it has at its disposal. But for heaven's sake, let it not risk ownership of Ontario's land by taking steps now that will in many ways encourage an influx of money into the province which will not in any way benefit anyone in the province in the long run and which will simply drive prices up even further.

The minister knows, and I know, and anyone else who has looked at business in Ontario understands that in almost every single case the cost of the tax, wherever the tax was applicable, was woven into the final price at the time of the sale of the land or of the enterprise. Because of the nature of the corporate tax laws of Canada that was written off over an extended period of time.

So if this tax was at all beneficial, if it was meaningful, and if it did in fact discourage outside interests from coming into Canada, it certainly didn't discourage those whose business it was to establish a commercial endeavour or industrial endeavour, who wanted to create employment, who wanted to manufacture goods to produce services. It didn't discourage those people; it never was intended to discourage those people. Those people were given every opportunity, either by way of exemption or by way of writeoff through their corporate tax structure, to off-

set whatever additional costs were imposed by this. And they did that.

What this was intended to do—and what it should be doing, and why we should be keeping it in place—was to try to avoid the speculative undertakings of a number of people who were using money, earned wherever it was earned, in or out of the country, but whose interests were not in the development of the province of Ontario, but whose interests were simply in the business of making additional money on the money that they were investing.

I happen to think that it is important for Ontario, it is important for the future of Ontario, it is important for the people that we have responsibility to. It is important that we should draw the distinction. The distinction has to be this: that the government and the Liberals are prepared to see the land of Ontario owned, in any dimension, by anyone from any place. They don't care whether they are resident or non-resident; whether the money is being held by a syndicate in Sweden or by a syndicate in Switzerland, or brought in from the United States. They don't care who owns the land in Ontario, because it doesn't matter to them.

They don't see it as being important. We do. We think it is important. We think that the ownership of land is vital. We think that the future determination for planning and economic purposes can be made more readily by a government in this country dealing with people who own land in this country, and who live and who work in this country.

I think that is where we part company; it's just that simple. The other parties don't care who owns it; they don't care whether there is speculative profit made on it; they don't care whether that speculative profit drives up the prices; they don't care whether those people contribute one iota to the economy. Their only interest is a self-satisfying interest of seeing something that they plan to identify as the free market system working.

Well, we do care. And what we are telling the House is this, Mr. Speaker. If you take a look at the ever-increasing costs as they apply to the construction and development industry, in the vast majority of cases the increasing costs are attributable almost entirely to the changing ownership of land. There has been over the last 10 years, at least, clear indications of intercompany sales, of book sales, in order to appreciate land values, in order to drive the price of land up, in order to create speculative gain for people whose interest has nothing at all to do with the best economic interest of Ontario.

Now that may well happen if Canadians owned that; it could happen. But I suspect, given if one looks back historically, that it is not likely to happen there as it is if it is owned by interests from outside of the country.

So it is important from our point of view, it's vitally important from our point of view, that we should attempt, by whatever means there are at our disposal, to dissuade people who do not have any roots in this country, whose interests are simply in the making of money at our expense, from taking over the ownership of the land that is so vital for future needs.

We just frankly think that it may not be the most appropriate tool, it may not be the most effective tool, but it is one tool that can be used to try to maintain the ownership in Canadian hands and to discourage outside interests from involving themselves in investment purely for speculative purposes.

So I suggest to you that in fact, instead of doing what you're doing and moving towards halving the tax, you should be moving towards imposing a much more severe restriction on those who would speculate, on those who would use the land of this province as a basis for their own usury and greed. We should be taking firm action to make sure that more of the land of the province of Ontario is going back into the hands of residents of this province and this country; we should be taking steps to ensure that over the next decade or 20 years, significant changes occur in the ownership pattern and that those significant changes move away from foreign ownership toward domestic ownership. In the long run, it's who ultimately owns the land that determines the final price that you and I are going to have to pay—

Mr. Peterson: And how would you suggest we do it?

Mr. Deans: Are you back again?—that you and I are going to have to pay for all of the enterprises that take place.

It doesn't matter whether it's the development of homes for people—

Mr. Peterson: As opposed to homes for animals.

Mr. Deans: —homes that are already far out of reach of the majority of the average-income people, or whether you are talking about commercial undertakings, the exorbitant prices of which have to be paid for through the consumer prices charged in the stores, or whether it be the industrial developments that take place across the province on land that has been sold at inflated prices, far outside of what they might reasonably be

expected to charge; those prices reflect in the cost of the products that are manufactured and sold in the marketplace to Canadians.

We must, as a primary step—as a first step towards trying to put a curb on the ever-increasing prices and trying to keep out people who would use the very basic resource, the one basic resource that belongs to us—we have to take steps, we have to take whatever steps we can, this being one very small one, to try and persuade them that we really don't want them in here for speculative purposes.

If they want to come in and establish a portfolio investment that will in some way or other benefit the development of Canada, the development of Ontario; if they actually want to develop commercial and industrial enterprises that will be beneficial to you and to me and to children that are yet coming; then that's another matter and they are of course then given exemptions in order to do that.

As my colleague says, and after long deliberations and discussions with many industrialists in many parts of the world, we came to the conclusion, from what they told us, that they were quite prepared to enter into the long-term leases on land that they could lease, as long as they were given assurances that they wouldn't at some point or other be faced with eviction. Those assurances can be built into the leases. They didn't expect to own the land; they were prepared to come in and to do what they had to do in terms of development, because they want to be part of the Canadian market, because they wanted entree into the North American market and Canada provided them with that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I'd like to inform the member speaking that it is now 10:30 of the clock.

Mr. Deans: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All I want to say then, in my final comment on it, is this: You are absolutely right, we disagree with you. It's fundamental and it's clear. We don't happen to agree that you can play games with the future generation's needs. We don't happen to think that you can play roulette with the land ownership of the province of Ontario, hoping some day that it will revert to Canadian hands in some magical way. We happen to think that you've got to take concrete and positive steps. This may not be the most forceful one. This may not provide the end all for all of the things that we want. But I will tell the minister one thing; what she is now doing is running contrary to the best interests of the province of Ontario.

On motion by Hon. Mrs. Scrivener, the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The member for Wentworth North gave notice that he was dissatisfied with an answer given during question period by the provincial Treasurer (Mr. McKeough). According to section 28(a) of the standing orders I deem that a motion to adjourn the House has been made. The hon. member for Wentworth North and the provincial Treasurer will be given five minutes each. I call on the—

Mr. Breithaupt: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. With respect to your interpretation of rule 28 I note in reading the rule that one sentence is as follows: "No debate on any one matter during this period shall last for more than 10 minutes, five minutes to be allowed to the member raising the matter and five minutes to the minister if he wishes to reply."

Can you advise the House, Mr. Speaker, whether it is the presumption under the rules that whether the minister chooses to reply or not, it is at least an expectation that he would be present?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have been advised that it is not necessary for the member of the executive council to be present. The debate would continue under the rule if the member of the executive council was or was not present.

Mr. Breithaupt: It is apparently not much of a debate.

Mr. Lawlor: It makes a farce of the whole thing.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the standing orders of the House I am anxious to pursue a supplementary question I raised on June 29. I would have thought, given the fact that I had given sufficient notice, that the provincial Treasurer might have found it necessary to be here tonight. However, in his absence I will pursue this matter in the hope that he ultimately will reply to my question.

The original question raised by the member for Wentworth related to an independent review of the Hamilton-Wentworth region. The Treasurer stated that he was awaiting a reply from the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth and their regional council.

My supplementary question, if you will recall, related to a request pursuant to section 121, subsection 2 of Bill 155, 1973, wherein I requested that a minimum of 50 taxpayers may request a commission of inquiry into any of the affairs of a region or any matter connected therewith. The basis of my dissatisfaction with the Treasurer's answer

to me would be that he ignores the basic right inherent in the aforementioned legislation for citizens, taxpayers, to obtain relief from a system of government that may in fact not be working to the benefit of those residents.

Such a provision I believe is a good one. I have seen it in a number of the various regional bills. But it is only valid, Mr. Speaker, if the government recognizes and respects such petitions. Last week I presented on behalf of my constituents a petition with over 200 names. I would be pleased to submit a petition with over 20,000 names—and I could get them, I believe—requesting an inquiry or an independent review of the Hamilton-Wentworth region.

The members might wonder why my constituents would want such an independent commission. Notwithstanding the fact that they didn't want to get involved in regional government itself, I would say that they are not only suspicious, they are tired, they are fed up with regional government.

I would like the Treasurer to know, through the record at least, that the taxpayers have had it. Imposed in the name of efficiency, with promises of tax savings, the regional government in Hamilton-Wentworth is a sad tale of confusion, duplicity, misadministration, duplication of services, reduction of services, and higher taxes. It is a sad mess.

The Treasurer, if he were here, would recall the recommendations of the Steele commission. Had that report been implemented and regional services implemented gradually with public input, in the democratic process as we know it, the regional system of government as we see it today might have worked. This, of course, wasn't done and our system of regional government as we have it today is not working.

It is costing every taxpayer in the province of Ontario a great deal of money, for the taxpayers of Ontario supplement the cost of regional government not only through direct conditional grants, they also do it through the cost of running the province of Ontario, TEIGA specifically, to assist the employees of that ministry specifically, in the administration of their duties related to regional government.

In Flamborough, for instance, taxes are up roughly 30 per cent. A taxpayer in the township of Flamborough pays roughly 57 per cent on his tax dollar for regional purposes. In the city of Hamilton, it is 47 per cent.

I am disappointed that the Treasurer of the province of Ontario has not taken the time to respect my question, and I suppose

inherently the question from the member for Wentworth, and of course the question of my leader in requesting an independent review.

Interjection.

Mr. Cunningham: I would only say to him through you, Mr. Speaker, that that is indicative, I suppose, of the attitude of this government and the longer that they propose—

Mr. Wildman: Arrogant.

Mr. Cunningham: —to delay and abrogate their responsibilities, I say the longer they are inflicting the hardship on my constituents. I want to say I am unalterably opposed to that kind of disrespect to my taxpayers and my constituents. I think this is just the height of abrogation of responsibility and the longer that they abrogate that

responsibility, the longer they are going to be in a minority situation. John Smith, who said it was a good idea, is gone. Art Meen is gone. John White is gone. Don Ewen is gone. They are all gone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Your five minutes have expired.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You are gone. Sit down. You are gone now. You just got dusted off.

Mr. Cunningham: Oh no, I am not gone. I am in by 10,000 votes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there any member of the executive council who wishes to speak at this time?

Mr. Breithaupt: You are the only member of the executive council present at this time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If not, I deem the motion to adjourn to have been carried.

The House adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

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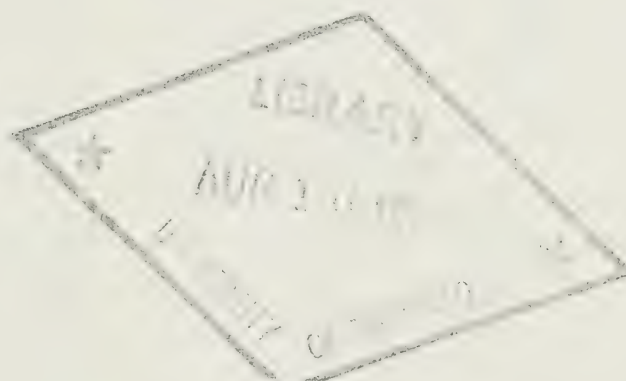
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Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament

Wednesday, July 6, 1977

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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Hansard subscription price is \$15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Printing Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 9th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, this is not in the nature of a statement particularly, but I simply want to apologize to you, sir, and to the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) for being unable to be here at 10:30 last evening. I was detained on government business and I do apologize to the member.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House today the report of the committee on the representation of children in the provincial court family division. The interest in the legal representation of children is part of the greater concern for the position and protection of children in Ontario today.

This report has considered the issue of child representation in the context of existing legislation; namely, part II of The Child Welfare Act and The Juvenile Delinquents Act. The committee has recognized that a children's services division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services has recently been established and has responsibility to review The Child Welfare Act, and that legislative reform by the federal government may occur in respect to The Juvenile Delinquent Act.

In its review of the present position in relation to the representation of children, the committee has looked to developments outside Ontario and, indeed, outside Canada, to benefit from the experience of other jurisdictions.

Central to the inquiry concerning legal representation for children is the recognized necessity of striking a balance between two critically important issues: the interests of children to have legal representation, and the rights and responsibilities of adults to make decisions on behalf of children. This issue is especially important in the case of proceedings under part II of The Child Welfare Act. The committee makes reference to

the statutory mandate conferred upon Children's Aid Societies by The Child Welfare Act, namely, to protect children where necessary.

In particular, the report proposes that a judge of a provincial court family division should have the power to appoint counsel to represent a child at a hearing under part II of The Child Welfare Act. At present, this power does not exist.

As well, the report proposes the establishment of pilot projects for the purpose of providing information and experience that does not now exist so as to structure a system of legal representation for children. These one-year projects would be set up in connection with the provincial court family division. Among other tasks, the projects would determine under what circumstances legal representation for children should be required and assess the relative merits of existing methods of providing legal representation for children.

I will be studying the implications and recommendations of the report and will be discussing it with my colleague, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Norton), who will have a major interest in these proposals. In addition, I invite public comment and debate on this issue. I recognize that much is yet to be done if an adequate system of legal representation for children is to be established in Ontario.

ABKO LABORATORIES

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I would also like to inform members that yesterday the Crown applied to a Supreme Court of Ontario judge for his consent to prefer an indictment in the case involving Abko Medical Laboratories and two of its principals. The application by the Crown was granted.

The judge of the Supreme Court ordered that his reasons for his decision not be made public in the interest of fairness to the accused persons in relation to the trial. I am satisfied that no judge of the Supreme Court would consent to such an application for the matter to proceed to trial unless the judge felt the procedure was fair to the accused persons.

HUDAC PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: During the debate on my ministry's estimates last week, the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) raised the matter of a special warrant of \$600,000 to the HUDAC new home warranty program. At that time, I indicated I would be making a statement in the House.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, the HUDAC new home warranty program was introduced to protect home buyers from financial losses resulting from builders' bankruptcies or other difficulties. The program as implemented contained a warranty to ensure against loss of down payments of up to \$20,000 for all housing units sold after January 1, 1977. It also covers correcting any construction faults.

However, some purchasers of condominium units bought before the January 1 introduction date have not received their deeds. If a builder were in difficulties, it is possible these home buyers could lose their down payments.

A case of this type was brought to our attention. The condominium purchasers found their down payments were in jeopardy, and some of their deposits are quite substantial. It has been alleged that a trust account was violated, and the purchasers would be left with neither ownership nor their deposit money. At the request of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, my ministry had discussions with the Ontario Council of HUDAC, the warranty board overseeing the program and Consumer and Commercial Relations representatives to find a solution.

A special fund of at least \$800,000 is being set up to cover any deposits that might be lost by condominium purchasers where the sale had taken place prior to the January 1 warranty introduction date but where deeds have not been received by home buyers. The funds from the Ministry of Housing budget will assist the warranty board to reimburse the deposits. Plans are also in hand to increase down payment protection insurance for units sold after a particular date, which has yet to be established.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ELECTRICIANS' STRIKE

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. In view of the current strike of union electricians in Toronto and the allegations that this strike is beginning to have very detrimental effects in terms of subway completion as well as other construc-

tion projects and employment generally, can the minister tell the House whether she is thinking of taking any extraordinary measures to assist in the resolution of this dispute, apart from the mediator or arbitrator whom I think she has already appointed? Has she considered, for instance, a disputes advisory committee or some other mechanism that might bring this to a speedy resolution?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Wildman: Which one?

Mr. S. Smith: I thought the question was worded in a reasonably open manner and was not intended to be in any way disputatious.

Mr. Hodgson: So was the answer.

Mr. S. Smith: Let me ask then by way of a supplementary, could the minister be kind enough to elaborate on her first answer in order to enlighten us as to whether she is considering having a disputes advisory committee specifically, or some other particular method, and what she thinks are the prospects for success in this case?

Mr. Wildman: Just tighten it up and say "no."

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister has the floor.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I have not decided on either of the two mechanisms which I think might be useful at this time because I feel there is a role for further mediation intervention at this point. That is the course we are pursuing at this time with some hope of finding a solution to the problem.

Mr. Bolan: You haven't done anything.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, that's not true, Mr. Speaker. Indeed the mediation process has been of some success thus far, and I think there is evidence that it can be further successful this week.

Mr. S. Smith: I will just ask a brief supplementary if I might. Let me ask it in the form of a question. Has the minister been in touch with the mediator and had some reason to be optimistic, and has she set a time limit in her own mind as to when she might move in with another method of settling the dispute, given the costs that will be incurred if the Spadina line is delayed in its opening?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have been in touch with the mediator and I have had discussions as well with some others who are involved with this problem, either directly or tangentially, and it is my understanding that a further week of continuation of the dispute will have a potentially detrimental effect upon the Spadina

subway line. I have some information that would lead me to believe I can be at least reasonably optimistic that this will not occur.

Mr. S. Smith: I want to thank the minister for the answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services regarding the youth community service program, the home support program that he announced on April 21. Can the minister explain what the present status is, given the fact that he announced about 700 jobs to be created, and yet we heard from his ministry today that only 400 have been "designated"? How many people are actually working today as a consequence of this particular program in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am not able to give the precise figure at this point. I will undertake to obtain that and provide it to the House and the Leader of the Opposition tomorrow. As for the numbers not being entirely filled yet, as I announced at the time, the program is being implemented through the municipalities and municipalities have picked up the program at different rates.

The figure the member quoted—and I must say I did not see the particular statement he is referring to; I have been in a cabinet meeting all morning—presumably reflects the numbers of committed positions that have been approved through the municipalities at this point. Whether that represents the number of people who are actually actively employed in the program right now I can't be certain, but I will find out and respond further.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, in as much as the list his ministry was kind enough to give us contains these 400 jobs that are designated, is the minister not aware that the jobs designated for Toronto and for Ottawa-Carleton at least, which are the only ones we have got hold of so far, have not been approved by those municipalities because of two things? Can he comment on this? The two things they have told us are, first, the costs they have to incur to pay the benefits, and second, the fact that there is no guarantee this funding will continue past March 1978 and they don't want to get into programs they are going to be stuck with?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I really have no further comment at this point. I will say, as I announced at the time and the position is still the same, that we made the

commitment to contribute to the cost of the salaries of the individuals who would be hired in the program up to a per diem limit. The municipalities were, through their own administration, to deal with the question of overhead, and that's the same position the program is in at the present time. I myself have not had any direct communications from the municipalities that the member has mentioned. I will also respond further on that tomorrow.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary: In view of the minister's last statement, is it not a fact that the minister did indeed write to Metropolitan Toronto advising that the program might continue beyond March 1978, but perhaps not in the form at present contemplated? Could the minister explain that letter in the light of his statement that he hadn't been in communication with Metro?

[2:15]

Hon. Mr. Norton: My reference to the communication with Metro, I apologize, was specifically with reference to the Leader of the Opposition's comment about the costs they would incur. I did, in fact, overlook a response to the other part of his question.

At the present time, we have made the commitment to follow through with this program throughout this fiscal year. It is a program I would like to see continue beyond this fiscal year, depending on our experience with it during the course of this next year. As soon as we are in a position to indicate to the municipalities our position beyond the end of this current fiscal year, I will do so. But until we have had an opportunity to observe the program in operation it would be difficult to make long-term commitments. I think that's a wise position to take.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary: I would like to ask the minister how he expects to get any experience on this program in Metropolitan Toronto, when I have found from an organization in my riding, that wishes to hire a student under the program, that there are not even application forms available and the municipality is not prepared to say when they will be available. There will be no jobs this summer unless something is done. I would ask the minister, will he communicate with the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and find out how that roadblock can be unblocked?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, I will. I want to emphasize that this is not just a summer program, it is a year-round program.

Mr. McClellan: It goes until March.

Mr. Cassidy: Time will stop on March 31.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I was not aware of the problems that the member refers to in Metropolitan Toronto.

Mrs. Campbell: Following that question and answer, could the minister explain how it is going to be a program on a year-round basis when the municipalities cannot ascertain what kind of funding they are going to have? Municipalities must plan, even if the minister doesn't have to.

Mr. Sargent: Touché.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not accustomed to such rather nasty questions from my good friend across the House.

Mr. Cassidy: You had better get used to it.

Mr. Roy: She wouldn't do that.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We do plan, and the municipalities do know at this point what money is available to them through this program up until March 1978. In terms of most programs, one can really plan on that basis only for the current fiscal year. As soon as we have information going beyond that, I will be sharing it with the municipalities.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

Mr. Deans: I have a question for the Treasurer. Since it appears to be an overwhelming desire of the regional council of Hamilton-Wentworth that there should be a review conducted of the regional structure, is he prepared to authorize that review?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I indicated that this was, of course, the point. We are waiting to hear what kind of review they want. I have not heard from them this morning nor have I read any press reports. I am interested to hear what the member has just reported. Yes, that is what I indicated in my letter to them of a month ago, that if they wanted a review they should say what kind of a review, and I would sit down and discuss that with them.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Is it possible for the Treasurer to make a commitment that the review will be conducted by people who reside in and have a stake in the regional government area being reviewed, rather than someone being sent in either from Toronto or from outside whose interest in it, though perhaps honest, certainly wouldn't reflect the concerns that have been expressed by most of the residents?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Before I can answer that question, it may be that the regional council wants an outsider. I will determine that first. Then I would suspect that there would be some degree of consultation before a commissioner was, or commissioners were

appointed who might or who might not be from the Hamilton-Wentworth area.

Mr. Cunningham: Supplementary: Could the Treasurer tell us how long he would anticipate it would be before such a commission might be established in order that submissions might be planned and presented and so that this mess might be straightened out?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I have no idea.

RENFREW NURSING HOME

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. Further to the questions that I asked on Monday with regard to the Grove Park Lodge in Renfrew, has the minister had, from the inspector, the report that was to be sent out? Given what appears to be the serious nature of the complaints that are being lodged, doesn't he feel this report that he's awaiting should be delivered post-haste, and that he should conduct a review with some degree of speed in order to clear up whether there is an understaffing problem at the lodge; whether the 75 residents have available to them adequate provision for their well-being and whether the staffing and the firing of staff have detrimentally affected the level of care required to be provided under the Act?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: As I indicated to the member on Monday, an inspection was made on Sunday. This satisfied that particular inspector that the regulations under The Nursing Home Act were, in fact, being adhered to. The supervisor was going in on Monday and I haven't had his report yet. What with Wednesday being cabinet day, I was in my office only a few minutes this morning and the report was not there. I haven't had an opportunity to discuss it with my parliamentary assistant who oversees that part of the ministry for me.

I know that last evening there was a telephone exchange between someone in the local area and the gentleman who heads up the inspection branch, and he followed it up again and inquired as to the number of staff on duty last evening, which I guess would have been around 5:30 or 6 p.m. He was satisfied that there were enough staff on duty for the number of residents in the home, as of yesterday at 5:30. So we are, in fact, following up very diligently and very thoroughly.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Can the minister tell me—surely even by a phone call this could have been found out—whether there has been a reduction in staff from the 43 who were previously there to the 28 that was

reported to us as being the number now in place and working?

Secondly, if that is true, can the minister indicate how it's possible that 28 people can provide the level of care necessary if it required 43 people last week to do the same thing?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't have the figures in front of me, but my recollection is that there were 39 staff under the previous owners; that when the present owners took over they let 14 go—which reduced the staff to 25—and hired 14 more. But I'll confirm that once I have the report from the inspector.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Are you not aware that the situation was somewhat different from the way you describe it; that they were all let go and that they hired back 14; that everyone was released with the possible exception of the supervisor?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't have the figures in front of me; I'm going strictly by memory. The numbers 39, 25 and 14 are what recur to me. But, as I say, when I've got the final report, I'll get into that with the member.

The point is that through two on-site inspections in the last few days and a phone check last evening, our staff in the inspection branch are satisfied that the staffing ratios are being met and that the patients are being well cared for.

HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

Mrs. Campbell: My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Is the minister aware that besides the concern expressed—by Metro, at least—as to the costs of implementing the home support program, at least one of the agencies sought to be involved has expressed concern in these terms—and I would like the minister's comment: "To amplify—short-lived services to elderly and handicapped persons are unkind and sometimes worse than none at all, setting expectations or making promises which cannot be carried out." Could the minister comment on that statement coming from one of those supposedly implementing it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I must say I would agree with the sentiments expressed in that letter if we were talking about what I conceive of as a short-term program. I do not believe the program we are discussing is as described in that letter.

It is intended to supplement existing services to the elderly and the disabled in their

homes and to provide non-professional services to them in that setting. I would hope our experience over the next several months will be such as to encourage us to proceed further with that program. In other words, I hope it will be a success.

In further response, since answering the member's question earlier I have some additional information that I might share with her. The figure that was quoted by the Leader of the Opposition is apparently the number of commitments we have received from municipalities as of this date. We are awaiting approvals from municipal councils on a number of other situations. Until we have heard from them, we will not know the number of commitments they are prepared to make as councils.

I understand some of the programs are already under way or activated. I believe all of the Indian bands are at present activated. The program of the city of Hamilton, as I understand it, is at present in operation. That is the extent of the information I have to this point.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary: In view of the answer given, can the minister explain why it is that included in this list are both Ottawa-Carleton with 33 and Toronto—presumably Metro Toronto—at 90? Our information is that neither of these is approved because of the uncertainties as to financing and, particularly in the case of Metro, because they would have to expend far more than they would receive in benefits and administrative costs.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I will attempt to confirm the information that the hon. member has and then respond further.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: Given the fact that these are services to the elderly and handicapped and given the fact that this does require the agencies involved to screen people and so on—one can't send just anybody into people's homes—does the minister not accept that it is necessary to give some commitment for funding beyond March 1978 if the experiment which he wishes to carry out, and which we approve, is to have any chance of success whatsoever?

Mr. Sweeney: Ask the Minister of Energy (Mr. J. A. Taylor).

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can only reiterate what I said before, that if the program is successful, as I hope it will be, we will be in a position then to communicate with the municipalities as to the extent of the commitment we will make beyond 1978.

HUDAC PROGRAM

Mr. Breagh: I have a question of the Minister of Housing regarding the statement he made today. Would he care to inform the House where this particular case came up? In particular, we are interested in knowing in which riding that particular case was found, and why it was considered to be appropriate in the middle of an election to respond to this issue, which had obviously been presented to the government at some previous time?

Mr. Warner: Good question.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: First of all, the response to this particular problem was not during the middle of an election. The information came to us prior to the election date. It took some time to work out the details of how we could go about being of assistance in a particular area.

As far as the properties themselves are concerned it is a firm known as Sherwood Properties. The building that was causing us the concern was located at 40 Chichester Place. I can't tell you what riding; I don't know.

Mr. Breagh: What city?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: In Metropolitan Toronto or in this area; in the city of Toronto or one of the boroughs. I am not as familiar with the streets as perhaps I should be.

[2:30]

Mr. Breagh: Supplementary: Does this donation to the HUDAC fund cover all citizens who might have been caught in this particular set of circumstances or only this one particular project?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I think as my statement indicated, it is our desire to make sure in the case of those persons who have purchased condominium units prior to January 1, 1977, and whose deeds have not been registered for whatever reason, that if anything was to occur they would not lose their deposits.

I would advise the hon. member and others that in this particular situation we became aware of some cases where the individuals had paid 100 per cent for their particular units that had gone into this particular fund and the allegation was that the trust had been violated.

Mr. Breagh: Supplementary: The minister still hasn't been very specific about whether it covers all people in that circumstance or just this one particular condominium project. Would he elaborate on that, and when he does, would he please give us some further

information? In the last sentence he says he is going to work out the remainder of the program and, to use his words, "assist the warranty board to reimburse the deposits," which addresses itself to one specific thing. He also says that "plans are in hand to increase down-payment protection insurance for units sold after a particular date, which has yet to be established." When will we get that kind of information?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: If I can take them in some semblance of order. First of all, there have been no other cases drawn to our attention—

Mr. Breagh: Oh yes, there have been.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Mr. Speaker, I am saying to the hon. member no other cases have come to my attention as it relates to this particular problem. The particular statement that I've made indicates to him that for any units that were purchased prior to January 1 and the deeds not registered, the protection will be there. That's the purpose of this fund; we extend it back beyond that date. If there are such cases, then they should be referred to us, but I am not familiar with them.

As far as continuing the program and the finalization of it, that is at present being worked out by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the board of the HUDAC warranty plan. This was a new area that we got into as a result of this particular matter being brought to our attention.

Mr. Breagh: Six hundred thousand dollars covers the one project?

BILINGUAL COURT SERVICES

Mr. Roy: Mr. Deputy Speaker, can I congratulate you, as the hon. member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), on the fine job you are doing?

Mr. Breithaupt: Now, don't start it.

Mr. Ruston: Keep your eye on him.

Mr. Roy: No, I don't intend to spoil things.

I have a question of one of my colleagues, the Attorney General. Why will he not allow Gerard Filion, a Canadian citizen, charged with a criminal offence, to have his trial in French in this province, just as a citizen from Ontario if he were in Quebec would have the choice of having his trial in French or in English?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I don't accept the accuracy of my colleague's statement. It depends on all the circumstances. Mr. Filion is one of 12 or 14 accused persons charged in a criminal conspiracy. As the member for Ottawa East is well aware, Mr. Speaker, the practice requires, in the public interest gener-

ally speaking, unless there are very unusual circumstances, for accused persons charged in a conspiracy to be tried together.

The member is well aware, I suggest, of the public interest in that matter. Furthermore, 95 per cent of the witnesses are English speaking; 95 per cent of the documentation, which is voluminous, is in English. As a matter of interest, Mr. Filion is perfectly bilingual. But notwithstanding that fact, we have indicated that simultaneous translation services will be afforded if they can be of assistance to him.

In our view it would be a very serious departure to separate one accused in a charge related to a conspiracy and have him tried separately simply because that individual wishes to have his trial in French or in English, as the case may be.

Having said that, I will say that I am very concerned about this whole issue of providing for French-language services in our courts. I think, as the member for Ottawa East knows, that the present Attorney General has made considerable efforts during the past year to extend these services in the province of Ontario. On Friday I will be making a statement to the House, an up-to-date report, as to what we've accomplished to date in relation to the extension of French-language services in our courts.

At the same time, I think that regrettably there is some misunderstanding about the manner in which the Filion case is being handled. There is misunderstanding not only in this province but in the province of Quebec. As a matter of fact, I intend to be in Montreal tomorrow and part of the reason for my visit there is to set the record a little clearer as to just what the facts are in relation to Mr. Filion's trial, as well as what we're trying to accomplish for our French-speaking citizens generally in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Supplementary, the member for Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Sorry, Ottawa East. I made an error.

Mr. Roy: Please, you're the third party now.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I was identified by you. Do you not know your own colleagues?

Mr. Roy: I think it's a rule, Mr. Speaker, that the questioner has the first supplementary.

Mr. Cassidy: Just keep him out of my riding, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Roy: There's all sorts of potential on this side.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The member for Ottawa East may continue with his question.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Supplementary: In response to the minister's answer, recognizing the problem in the Filion case—and I appreciated that with 14 accused, a conspiracy trial and all, the general rule is to try to keep all the accused together—would the Attorney General not agree with me, whether Filion was alone or not, in this province because of section 127 of The Judicature Act he still cannot have his trial in French? Laudable as the Attorney General's efforts are in the pilot projects—and I congratulate him for that—the fact still remains, does it not, that there is a problem. In fact, the rights of English-speaking Quebecers as to trials in French or in English are legislated in the province of Quebec, whereas in Ontario we are still prohibited from having a trial in French, apart from the pilot projects in Sudbury, Ottawa and so on.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The member for Ottawa East is quite correct in relation to the section of The Judicature Act to which he referred, that English is the language of the courts in Ontario. There is no question about that.

Mr. Roy: Only English.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I think it is one of the realities we have to face in this province, despite our desire to accommodate our French-speaking citizens, which is a very important and I believe a very legitimate goal. The fact of the matter is, despite the fluency of the member for Ottawa East in both languages, we do not have a bilingual bar in Ontario and we do not have a bilingual judiciary.

Mr. Roy: That's not so.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: This creates some very serious practical problems.

Mr. Roy: In areas.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Even in areas for those lawyers—a very tiny percentage—who are fluent in both languages. Most of those who are fluent in the French language, for example, invariably have been educated at an English-speaking law school and feel uncomfortable pleading in French, as I've been told by many of our colleagues.

Mr. Warner: That is no reason to give up.

Mr. Roy: That is the next step, law school.

Mr. Cassidy: You hear what you want to hear.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: We're trying to remedy this situation. The Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott) has announced grants to the University of Ottawa to try to facilitate the education of law students in the French language in order to remedy this problem.

Mr. Cassidy: This sounds like the white Rhodesians.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: But at the present time we do have a serious problem in respect to legal resources and judicial resources for people who are comfortable and are able to carry on in both languages.

Mr. Warner: You are going to give up; you are not going to do anything.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary: I find it hard not to be provoked by the defeatist attitude of the Attorney General. I want to ask this, though—

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Oh, get off it!

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Are you running for leader?

Mr. Martel: I hear the Attorney General is.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You shouldn't mention the two of them in the same breath.

Mr. Cassidy: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Martel: The member for Ottawa Centre is much more competent.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I've got a \$1 bill here that says the member won't vote for him. In fact, I've got a \$2 bill.

Mr. Martel: It is your friend you want.

Hon. Mr. Davis: A \$5 bill, actually.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Cassidy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it's your House.

Supplementary: Given that the offer of simultaneous translation has been made to Mr. Filion, do we now understand that this will also be offered to other French-speaking defendants who have a case going forward at a higher level of the courts which are not under the jurisdictions of the pilot projects of Sudbury and Ottawa?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, every individual appearing before courts in this province has the basic right to an interpreter regardless of what the language is, if it's necessary to have that assistance with respect to following the evidence or, indeed, giving evidence. As to the issue of simultaneous translation, it will depend on the circum-

stances. A lengthy trial, like what is anticipated in the Filion trial, in our view would warrant this substantial expenditure so far as simultaneous translation is concerned. In the average trial, it is not necessary. As a matter of fact, it was not requested by Mr. Filion at any time. I should make that very clear.

Mr. Cassidy: He asked for a trial in French, of course.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: So it would depend on where the circumstances warrant it.

Mr. Wildman: Why wouldn't you give him simultaneous translation?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Final supplementary by the member for Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Cassidy: Is this the first time simultaneous translation has been offered to a defendant who is French-speaking; and if so, why is it that it was pressure in the French press in Montreal—

Mr. Roy: It is not.

Mr. Cassidy: —created this, when years of efforts by francophones in Ontario have not been able to get that in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: To my knowledge, it's not the first time that it's been offered, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, can I ask a final supplementary?

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would say to the member for Ottawa East that I stated that would be the final supplementary. I recognize the member for Hamilton East.

Mr. Breaugh: Atta boy, slap him down. We'll back you.

Mr. Roy: Did you say it was my final supplementary, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Hodgson: Come on, you said he was doing such a good job. Sit down, Albert.

An hon. member: Sit down, you frog.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I recognize the member for Hamilton East.

Mr. Roy: Can I get up on a retraction?

CUSTOM AGGREGATES

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Labour: I'm wondering if the minister is aware of the potentially ugly situation that's developed in the last two or three days at the strike at Custom Aggregates in Aberfoyle, where the company attempted to bring out truck loads from the quarry on Thursday of last week and Tuesday of this week, and in the process nearly ran down one

of the workers? And can she give us any further report on the strike and the efforts of her mediator, Mr. Ladd, that I had asked her about back in March, recognizing that the strike is now 11 months old and the workers who are replacing those in the plant in most cases now are from the province of Quebec; the local people are just out in the cold?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I'm not sure of the veracity of all of the remarks made by the hon. member for Hamilton East. I would have to check—

Mr. Wildman: You can be sure.

Mr. Cassidy: He is usually right and you are usually wrong.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The allegations regarding the site of origin of certain of the workers who are there now do not tally with some of the things I've heard. I don't have an up-to-date report today, Mr. Speaker. I shall try to get one and have it for the member tomorrow.

Mr. Mackenzie: Supplementary: Is it possible that she could have her ministry do something to try to defuse the situation, which I understand is rather nasty right at the moment?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, we always try to do that sort of thing if we can.

Mr. Swart: Seldom with success.

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, that's not true—

BOARD-TEACHER DISPUTES

Mr. Gregory: My question was for the Minister of Education, but he's not in the chamber. Perhaps I could direct the question to the Premier. In view of the recent unfortunate experience we had in Peel with the work-to-rule campaign conducted by the Peel teachers, and in view of the possibility that this could occur in other parts of the province, I'm wondering if there's a possibility of having a review of The School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act with a view to speeding up the negotiation process in an attempt to avoid further work-to-rule campaigns?

[2:45]

Mr. Gaunt: Ah, the Premier knows all about that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Having had some indirect personal involvement with the situation in Peel, I understand the question from the hon. member for Mississauga East. I think it is a matter, though, that the Minister of Education himself would like to deal with more directly, because I know he has a very great interest in the subject.

He has now arrived and, I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, in your new responsibilities, you would certainly like to give the member for Mississauga East an opportunity to restate his question to the minister now that he is present.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Would the member for Mississauga East like to redirect his question?

Mr. Gregory: The question is to the Minister of Education. In view of the recent rather bad experience we had in Peel region with the work-to-rule campaign conducted by the Peel Secondary Teachers' Association, and because of the possibility that this might recur in other parts of the province, I'm wondering if the minister would consider a review of The School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act, 1975, with a view to speeding up the negotiation process in the hope that this will not occur again?

Hon. Mr. Wells: If my friend is asking for a complete review of the bill, no, I do not intend to undertake a complete review of the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act. We have had ongoing discussions with boards and teachers' groups as to amendments that could be brought forward in this bill; that process has been going on. We are, of course, ultimately looking to correct any deficiencies. I'm sure we'll be having a discussion later on in our estimates in this particular area.

I think it's worth pointing out that, notwithstanding the very troublesome times that were had in Peel and several other areas, there were over 170-odd contracts that were negotiated between boards and teachers under the bill and agreements were arrived at without the unfortunate kind of circumstances that occurred in Peel.

The real problem in Peel was a work-to-rule situation, which in the wisdom of this government and this House was felt should be brought under the aegis of the bill and should be classified as a strike. I feel that decision was a right one and that a work-to-rule situation should be classified as a strike, that groups participating in that kind of a sanction should have to go through all of the processes of Bill 100.

I think the question of speeding up negotiations in any area is one which is of concern to us all. It is the responsibility of the Education Relations Commission, that is their job. They realize that and endeavour, in any area where a dispute is dragging on, to attempt all measures that will speed up negotiations.

INJURED WORKERS' BENEFITS

Mr. Mancini: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. I wonder if the Minister of Labour can inform the House what action she has taken since she has become Minister of Labour to ensure that the injured workers of this province could make payments into the Canada Pension Plan and into the UIC scheme?

Hon. B. Stephenson: There have been negotiations going on in Ottawa between the Workmen's Compensation Board and those with responsibility for Canada Pension and the unemployment insurance program for the past several years. There has been some accommodation made in the area of certain of the benefits which are available from the federal level, but indeed there has not been total accommodation in terms of the Canada Pension plan nor unemployment insurance. It is our hope that the ongoing discussions will bear some fruit in a relatively short period of time but this is a federal matter. It is a matter which we are attempting to resolve to the benefit of the injured workmen but we have not as yet been successful.

NURSES' DISPUTE

Mr. Bounsall: I also have a question of the Minister of Labour. What action has she proposed to the cabinet and what action is she prepared to take herself as a result of the Industrial Inquiry Commission Report by John Sheriff for the resolution of the now long-outstanding dispute between the public health nurses and the public health boards across Ontario, in as much as the Premier announced several times during the election campaign, and since, that action will be taken by no later than June 30?

Hon. B. Stephenson: It's unfortunate that the hon. member was not in the House last week when I answered the question specifically for one of the members of the official opposition.

We have, indeed, received the report of Mr. Sheriff. It has been examined in conjunction with the Ontario Nurses' Association and the Association of Boards of Health. I have had some discussions with my cabinet colleague, the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell), and with other members of cabinet. We are proposing further meetings, I hope early next week. Indeed, there is a meeting tomorrow.

It is my understanding that the Premier said nothing about having a solution by June 30 but indeed promised on one occasion in Renfrew that he would meet with the representatives of the Ontario Nurses' Associa-

tion for that area before June 30. It has not been possible to arrange it by that date, but I think that meeting is this week.

Mr. Bounsall: Supplementary: Will the minister be supporting the very reasonable ONA position, which is the dropping of their request for arbitration and a return to the bargaining table provided it is ensured that at least parity with hospital nurses is paid for the year 1976 as a start?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the first statement in the hon. member's reading of what is obviously a message from the ONA is one that I have not heard. I should be pleased to hear it.

Mr. S. Smith: Neither have I. You'd like them to drop arbitration?

Hon. B. Stephenson: They have not considered, to my knowledge, dropping arbitration.

Mr. Bounsall: That's right, and return—

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, Mr. Speaker, I have not heard that from the Ontario Nurses' Association.

Mr. S. Smith: Neither have I.

KITCHENER JAIL INCIDENT

Mr. Sweeney: I have a question of the Acting Minister of Correctional Services, dealing with the recent event in the Kitchener jail whereby two male prisoners were forced to strip in front of a female guard.

Mr. Drea: A female guard?

Mr. Sweeney: Can the minister explain how his inspector, a Mr. Victor Villeneuve, arrived at his decision to drop all charges, when he did not question the two male prisoners involved and questioned only one of six witnesses?

Mr. Drea: This is a female guard?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I don't know what charges the member has reference to, but I will get some information on it.

One of our problems, of course, in dealing with correctional institutions is the matter of the fact that we are trying to hire and engage a larger percentage of women in the institutions. At the same time, the percentage we are trying to acquire is in no way a comparison with the ratio between men and women in those institutions. In other words, we have far more men in institutions than we do women, and if we want the women to do equal jobs then we get some troubles.

The matter mentioned here is certainly of concern to us and one that we try to handle discreetly, but as far as dropping any charges

and what the member has reference to there, I will need to get information.

SUDBURY METALS FATALITIES

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney General, with reference to the deaths of three workers at the Sudbury Metals plant in October of last year as the result of an explosion. Taking into consideration the evidence that came forth in the testimony at the coroner's inquiry and taking into consideration the verdict of the coroner's jury, last March I asked the minister to consider launching criminal charges against the management of Sudbury Metals. Has he yet to consider the evidence, or has he made a decision whether to press charges? Otherwise, can he explain why he is dragging his feet?

Mr. Martel: Here's your chance.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I recall that the member for Sudbury drew the matter to my attention some time ago and my last recollection is that I requested staff to review the transcript. I thought it was being reviewed by the local Crown attorney in Sudbury to see whether any recommendations should be made with respect to the laying of charges.

I don't have any recollection of having received any report on the matter, Mr. Speaker, but I will endeavour to find out for the member what has transpired since he first broached the subject to me and I will try to report back to him in the Legislature as soon as possible.

OHTB BUS LICENCE

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications: How much money has Gray Coach lost since the pending Greyhound takeover started, and also by using their lines? Also, when is the report coming down from the Highway Transport Board on the takeover?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, to the first question, I do not have any information relating to the financial operations of Gray Coach over the past few months. To the second question, I answered that question to the member's leader, within the last two or three days I believe.

Mr. Sargent: Would the minister repeat the answer for me?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, if I may repeat the answer, I believe the chairman of the Highway Transport Board has now completed, or almost completed, writing his re-

port and is about to send it to the printers within the next few days. As soon as the report is received I will be releasing it.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary: Will the minister be taking into consideration in his decision that Gray Coach has announced that up to 270 drivers may have to be released if the decision goes against them?

Mr. Drea: That's not true.

Mr. Sweeney: Gray Coach has so claimed.

Mr. Drea: Not true, not true.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, as you know, the decision of the Highway Transport Board—

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please, the hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Snow: As you know, the decision of the Highway Transport Board has been appealed to cabinet. Certain evidence or response by the petitioners has been forwarded to cabinet. The new hearing into the matter, under specific terms of reference, was carried out at great length. This report will be coming forward to cabinet and to the petitioners, and they will no doubt be responding to that report. I am sure all this evidence will be taken into consideration by the cabinet when the decision is made on the appeal.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: Is the minister contemplating any more such licences in any other part of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am not aware of every application that is made to the Ontario Highway Transport Board. I have no idea whether there are other applications by bus companies for such routes or not; there are none that I know of at this time.

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary: Could the minister explain what connection Ontario Northland's decision to cut one route between Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie has with Greyhound's increased service as a result of their application?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Would the member say that again? I am sorry, I didn't understand just what his question is.

Mr. Wildman: Could the minister explain what connection Ontario Northland's decision to cut one of their runs between Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie has to Greyhound's increased service, which is related to their application for the Gray Coach route between Sudbury and Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I was not aware of a decision by Ontario Northland to reduce any service between Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie.

I have not met with Ontario Northland for the last short while, but this may very well have been a decision of the board or management to make some cut. I think I can understand there is a possibility that because of changes in schedules, because of additional service along Highway 17 being offered now by Greyhound—and I think the hon. member would be the first to admit that a tremendously increased and improved service is being offered all through northern Ontario by Greyhound Lines—it may be that some adjustment in schedules was necessary.

I do not believe that particular route of Ontario Northland was very well patronized in any case but it was being run as a service to the public. It may be that now, with the increased Greyhound service, that is not needed; and it may very well be for economic reasons rather than just for reasons of service that an adjustment has been made.

Mr. Stokes: As a result of that supplementary answer, may I ask a brief supplementary?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The member for Lake Nipigon.

[3:00]

Mr. Stokes: Since it is the expressed intention of Greyhound to increase their services in northern Ontario will the minister see whether or not Greyhound, in concert with the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, will establish feeder lines to connect with existing traffic along Highway 17 to serve the largest community in the riding of Lake Nipigon, namely Manitouwadge, and places like Sioux Lookout that find themselves anywhere from 40 to 50 miles off the main routes? Will the minister act in concert with the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are you coming to the question mark?

Mr. Stokes: —and Greyhound to ensure they get that kind of service?

Mr. Wildman: Also a better time schedule.

Mr. Drea: It takes them a while. It's free enterprise versus socialism.

Mr. Roy: I notice, Frank, you are back.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would have to discuss this and get additional information before I could give an answer as to the availability of service or the possibility of improving service from certain municipalities out to the main line.

Mr. Sargent: You'd better check it out with Eddie Goodman anyway.

GRANDVIEW FACILITY

Mr. Davidson: A question to the Solicitor General in his role as Acting Minister of

Correctional Services: Can the minister advise us as to the current status of the former Grandview School in Cambridge; and what plans, if any, is his ministry proposing for the buildings other than Churchill House on that complex?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I am not able to do that, but I will get that information, sir.

Mr. Davidson: Supplementary: Is the minister then aware of a letter dated June 15 to the council in the city of Cambridge from a Mr. John Jones, regional volunteer program co-ordinator, which contains the following line: "The repopulation of the total complex." Is the ministry planning on turning that entire complex into an adult detention centre?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I'm not aware of that letter, but I said I would get the information on the status.

Mr. Warner: He doesn't have anything over there.

HYDRO LAND ACQUISITIONS

Mr. Reed: I have a question for the Minister of Energy: Is Hydro's recent offer to purchase outright, plus injurious affection, to certain landowners on the corridor route west of Colbeck, now going to be made to all landowners along proposed corridor routes in future?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: There have been guidelines circulated recently in terms of policy and acquisition of lands so as to have a minimum impact on the people and to assist them in their negotiations for settlement. Yes, those guidelines will have application throughout.

Mr. Reed: Supplementary: Could the minister tell us if this offer on this specific corridor does not prejudice the hearings of necessity that are now under way on another section of the same route, considering that a ministerial decision is going to be necessary after the hearings are concluded?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: I think the member is referring to the third section of the southern section of the route, which is currently before the inquiry officer. No, this is a question of amicable settlement with the landowners and, of course, when you go to expropriation and arbitration of course then that's in the hands of the arbitration board. There's no change in terms of that procedure, which is statutory.

Mr. Reed: Supplementary: Knowing that the results of the hearings have to be subject to a ministerial decision, and knowing there

would be a ministerial decision involved in the offer to purchase along another section of the same corridor, would not one tend to prejudice the other?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: No, in that the northern two sections have in fact been expropriated. At that time, of course, prior to an arbitration, those acquisitions hopefully can be settled in a friendly fashion with the owners.

In regard to the southern section, that is presently before the inquiry officer. His report comes to me and I make a decision and issue reasons for the decision; following that, of course, the formal expropriation plan is signed and registered. At that stage, again, hopefully, those acquisitions will be made in a friendly fashion and the prices negotiated. If prices cannot be negotiated, then of course the procedure is to go before the arbitrator and the Land Compensation Board to have the price arbitrated.

HIGHWAY 555

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Can the minister explain how it is, even though he stated in this House yesterday that MTC officials were to meet with both mine management and union representatives from Elliot Lake since the election to arrange a commuter service between Blind River and Elliot Lake, that one of the local presidents informed me yesterday afternoon that the unions have had no contact whatsoever from MTC on this since last February? Why it is that he waited from February until June 7 to move on this matter?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Another press release, eh? You're all set now, Bud.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I haven't had an opportunity since the question period, Mr. Speaker.

SPEED LIMITS

Mr. Reid: My question, too, is for the Minister of Transportation and Communications, and it is in regard to speed limits through Indian reserves.

In view of the number of deaths that have occurred on Indian reserves where provincial highways have run through them, will the minister move his ministry to reduce the speed limits through Indian reserves and to post warning signs on both sides, entering and leaving reserves?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I don't know whether any are missing, Mr. Speaker, but it is certainly ministry policy that there be signs indicating

the boundaries of reserves on provincial highways.

Mr. Reid: But the ministry won't necessarily lower the speed limit.

Hon. Mr. Snow: If the member knows of some that are missing, then I would be pleased to know of them.

With regard to the speed limits, I believe we should be looking at speed limits relating to the particular situation in each reserve; I don't think conditions are the same in all reserves. Of course, when travelling on a highway through a reserve there are usually vast open areas as well as areas that are more built-up. I think speed limits certainly should be established for the built-up areas to be compatible with that particular area, but not necessarily a special speed limit through a whole reserve.

I have been dealing with these particular requests from reserves on the basis of that specific reserve. In some cases we have lowered the speed limits and the chiefs have been quite appreciative of it and have been quite agreeable to what we have done.

Mr. Reid: Would you look into the Sabas-kong reserve?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, if the member will send me copies of that correspondence he showed me a few moments ago, I'll be glad to have that particular one reviewed specifically.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question period has expired.

Petitions.

REPORT

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HOUSING

Mr. J. Johnson from the standing resources development committee reported the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following amounts to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Housing be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1978:

Ministry administration program	\$ 7,436,000
Community planning program ..	109,469,000
Community development program	8,024,000
Ontario Housing Corporation program	134,002,000
Ontario Mortgage Corporation program	99,810,000
North Pickering Development Corporation program	2,761,000
Home buyers grant program	20,897,000

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Motions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

AUDIT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of Bill 43, An Act to revise The Audit Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Members will recall that before dissolution I had tabled for first reading The Audit Act, Bill 24, accompanied by sessional paper No. 39, a compendium relating to it. I now have one minor amendment to section 1(a)(iv) of the bill as I presented it to the House on April 6. It was and still is the intent of this section of the bill that the Provincial Auditor will have all last audits of agencies of the Crown performed under his direction. Today's amendment further clarifies this intention.

I would also like to inform the members that the Institute of Chartered Accountants will be submitting to me a report on this legislation, which will be considered prior to second reading.

TORONTO AREA TRANSIT OPERATING
AUTHORITY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of Bill 44, An Act to amend The Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The amendment to The Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority Act which I have just introduced extends the area of jurisdiction to include the regional municipalities of Durham, Halton and Hamilton-Wentworth. The amendment also clarifies the authority's responsibility to carry parcel express and gives the authority the ability to enter into local service agreements with municipalities and municipal transit authorities.

FARM PRODUCTS PAYMENTS
AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. W. Newman moved first reading of Bill 45, An Act to amend The Farm Products Payments Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. W. Newman: This bill is a result of the financial protection task force I appointed last year which made its report and the report has been tabled.

Mr. Sargent: Take the marbles out of your mouth. I can't hear you.

Hon. W. Newman: You can't hear me?

Mr. Sargent: Speak into your mike.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Put your hearing aid on.

Mr. Sargent: It isn't working.

Hon. W. Newman: You need more than your hearing aid.

The purpose of this bill is to make it possible for farm commodity groups to set up producer and buyer commodity groups to protect producers from financial loss in the case of bankruptcies in the agricultural community.

LIQUOR LICENCE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Drea moved first reading of Bill 46, An Act to amend The Liquor Licence Act, 1975.

Motion agreed to.

[3:15]

Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker there are two sections in this amendment. The first would restore to the board the discretion to refuse an application where there is an existing premises within one-half mile of the new one.

The second subsection, which probably will entertain the House a little bit more, is to restore to the board what the courts took away, and that is entertainment standards. There would be an advertisement on the outside of the premises stating exactly what the entertainment consists of, and secondly the entertainment would have to be approved by the board. I think that's in conformity with things being done in New York state at the moment, which is that ladies who are entertaining in licensed premises are going to wear clothing.

Mr. Laughren: Have you considered being a one-man judge, Frank?

Mr. Cassidy: Are you going to censor scripts as well as cut out political satire?

Mr. Drea: If you are the kind of person who goes in for that, I'm sorry to take it away from you.

Mr. Cassidy: That is potentially a very dangerous bill, very dangerous. It is the newspapers next.

Mr. Drea: You have always been soft on porn, Cassidy, keep it up.

Mr. Cassidy: Are you going to censor the newspapers next?

Mr. Drea: You have always been soft on it; that's why the arrests are in your riding and you know it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drea: Maybe we should censor a couple of yours, like The Brothers in Ottawa.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved second reading of Bill 19, An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do you have any opening comments, Mr. Minister? Order, please.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Snow: If I can get the attention of the House, Mr. Speaker, I might attempt to make some comment. I really don't have very much to say regarding this bill Mr. Speaker. It is, I think, quite self explanatory. There are basically no changes in policy as far as the bill is concerned. The bill converts from the imperial system to the metric system the speed limits, distances and other regulations regarding the highway system. I will be introducing two amendments in the committee stage. Copies of these amendments have been delivered to the critics from the two opposition parties; and I will have these two amendments to introduce when we get into committee.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, very briefly I want to indicate that we will support the bill as it stands. I would like to make a couple of comments, though, on the legislation. One thing I would like to ask the minister; I hope he will consider an effective communications program when this bill takes effect so that the drivers in the province of Ontario are well aware of the changes we are contemplating here. I know that when you do move from the imperial system to a metric situation, there are a number of people, young and old, who find themselves somewhat confused by the change or are not familiar with it in any way.

With things as important as speed limits and distances on highways, I think it's important, too, that options be available. I would hope that the minister might consider, when posting these changes, the maintenance for a number of years of the current imperial system as we know it. I know it is going to be very difficult, especially for people with older cars, to accommodate themselves to rapid overnight change. I know myself, even now I am still somewhat in doubt as to comparisons in temperature between Celsius and Fahrenheit and I must admit I'm much more comfortable with the old Fahrenheit system.

I hope that the minister will entertain these suggestions in the spirit I offer them. I would only say to him that we are in support of this legislation. In fact I'm not

even sure that we need to go to a great deal of debate in committee.

Mr. Philip: We're in agreement with the bill and, unless the minister can give us some reasons, like the member for Wentworth North I really question why there would even be any need for going into committee. We recognize the bills are primarily housekeeping bills, that they're part of a gradual, evolutionary process towards a world metric system; in spite of the inconveniences that they may create for a few of us who are not used to the system, it's a process that has to be continued and will be continued. So we're in support of the bill.

Mr. B. Newman: I wanted to make a few comments concerning this bill. My big concern is its effect on the tourist traffic. I would suggest to the minister, seeing that the United States is not going to adopt the metric system at this time, that he have some type of literature provided at all points of entry into the province of Ontario, especially at the border with the US. It could be a simple conversion table so that American tourists would know definitely that 80 kilometres-per-hour is the equivalent of 50 miles-per-hour, so they don't find themselves being penalized for not realizing that we're dealing in kilometres and not miles. It could give any other conversions that are necessary.

Mr. Bounsall: I'd just like to take this opportunity with respect to this bill to congratulate the minister on making the conversion at this time. It's long overdue, of course, and brings us in line with the European countries and most of the rest of the world. Also I would take this opportunity to congratulate the minister and the ministry on the excellent new province of Ontario road map which they've brought out, with the metric distances and the increased number of county roads and towns and villages on it. It's indeed the best road map I have ever seen of any province, state or country in which I've been, and I hope the minister will pass that on to those persons in his ministry who are responsible for that.

Mr. Germa: I have just a couple of words with the minister in relationship to this bill. Maybe my remarks are not entirely related to the metrication.

I think the bill indicates there is going to be considerable expenditure on the changing of road signs in order to get them all reading in metric measurements. I would like to offset some expenditure that might take place as a result of another situation which I think the minister should possibly consider before he goes to this expense of

new road signs. That is the predicament in the province that we face where, if you travel on one particular secondary road, Mr. Speaker, you're allowed a speed of 55 miles-an-hour, whereas if you're going on another road you are allowed a speed of 50 miles-an-hour.

Just to cite the discrepancy that certain citizens face when we have this problem is that a person leaving Toronto and heading for the city of Sudbury would normally use Highway 69, which has a speed limit of 50 miles-per-hour, whereas another person leaving Toronto heading for North Bay on Highway 11 would be allowed a speed of 55 miles-per-hour, despite the fact that both of these highways are to the same specifications. One highway is equal to the other as far as specifications are concerned and as far as safety is concerned.

I do understand how the differential came about in that the minister did say that the limit on Highway 11 would be 55 miles-per-hour because it is designated part of the Trans-Canada Highway system and in order to conform with the federal recommendation he would in fact change his mind about the 50 miles-per-hour zone there and increase that to 55 miles-per-hour. I'm asking the minister then to consider those of us who have to take a different route north.

Certainly I'm in agreement with the reason for the reduction in speed, the conservation of energy, but I'm wondering why certain people have to conserve more than others. I'm willing to save equally with anyone else, but I'm a little resentful that because of the place I live and the place I have to travel to and from, being Sudbury and Toronto, that I have to make a greater contribution to energy conservation than I think I should.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, I would like to register my opposition to the bill. I think that in the States, as I understand, some areas that were on metric have gone back to miles again. I think what is happening in this area is that if we get into the metric system as far as assessment is concerned, if we're going to go the whole piece we're going to be in a hell of a mess.

Mr. Bounsall: Vote against it.

Mr. Sargent: I'm not even going to vote. The party is going to support it. I'd like to know the minister's reasoning for going this route. We sure screwed up the system on temperature control, Celsius and Fahrenheit, and I think it's causing further confusion on the part of the consumer.

Mr. Bounsall: We know the real neanderthals now.

Mr. Cassidy: Just a brief point, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that the minister's intention is that all speed limits must be expressed in multiples of 10—30, 40, 50, 60 kilometres-per-hour—and it will not be possible to have any multiples of five, that is, 35 or 45 kilometres per hour. This has been raised by city council in the city of Ottawa with the ministry, I believe. I would like to ask the minister to make some kind of a statement during the course of his reply on second reading of this bill. It seems to me that if, in fact, the government has any respect for municipal autonomy a city as large as Ottawa or Toronto, or other places around the province, should be able to make that decision as between 30, 35 or 40 and should not be subjected to a rule which makes the intervals rather larger and, therefore, more difficult to play around with than they are under the present miles-per-hour system which we are having until this law comes into force.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. members for their contribution and suggestions regarding this legislation.

The hon. member for Wentworth North commented regarding communications. I must certainly agree that this is very important. This is why we have had the new road maps prepared in the metric distances. The road maps have conversion scales of different types printed as part of the map. Additional information will be made available to tourists through our tourist information centres and will be available, I believe, at customs where visitors are entering from the United States.

His suggestion regarding dual signing, I believe, would not be possible as far as speed limits are concerned. The speeds that we will be posting—for instance, 100 kilometres-per-hour replaces 60 miles-per-hour—are not exact conversions, and to have the new legislation dealing with this control of speed in kilometres and have signs remaining in miles per hour would run us afoul of the courts. It may be possible to have some phasing of the mileage distance signs but it would not be possible as far as the speed limit signs are concerned.

The member for Etobicoke suggested we might not even need to go into committee with this bill, but we will have to take it to committee because of the two amendments that I have to introduce. That is why I mentioned going into committee.

The member for Windsor-Walkerville, I think I've already answered his comments

regarding information for tourists. This will be available through the Ministry of Industry and Tourism. Of course, our road maps are distributed at all those tourist information centres.

[3:30]

Mr. B. Newman: But not all tourists stop in for tourist information; and they don't realize the difference between kilometres and miles.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I realize that all the tourists don't drop into the tourist information centres, but also I don't think we are going to put someone out on the highway to stop every tourist and poke something in their window either.

Mr. B. Newman: Distribute them when they pass through immigration.

Hon. Mr. Snow: We will do as we have done with the seat belt legislation. We will no doubt have some type of an informative sign at the border crossing points to remind the tourists that they are entering into an area which is on the metric system.

Mr. Sargent: Is every province doing this?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I will get to that, Eddie, if you will just wait a moment.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We don't refer to the hon. member by name. Also, there will be opportunity for specific questions when it comes to committee of the whole anyway.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I thank the hon. member for Windsor-Sandwich for his comments regarding the new road map. It is an excellent production and I will pass on his comments to those who were responsible for it. We put a considerable amount of work and thought into getting this map ready. In fact, I think members will notice that the map has considerably more information on it than our previous editions. They will note that we have also increased the scale slightly, to allow us to have more information on it and more clearly define the roads and the classes of roads.

The hon. member for Sudbury mentioned the expenditures that would be involved in this. There is no doubt there will be expenditures, although considering the size of the province they will be relatively modest as the signs are being changed by way of an overlay decal that will be installed to the existing signs. The signs themselves as units will not be changed; and of course any new signs being installed will be in the metric system.

Regarding his suggestions relating to the speed limits, I am pleased to be able to say

today that when we switch to metric in September I have recommended to my colleagues in cabinet, and it has been approved, that we will be changing the speed limit on Highway 69 from the Coldwater area north to Sudbury. It will be changed to 90 kilometres when it goes metric, which is equivalent to 55 miles-per-hour. The speed limit on Highway 11 from Highway 60 in the Huntsville area north to North Bay will also be changed to 90 kilometres at the same time as we convert to metric. This has been suggested to us by different people from the north, by some of the Chambers of Commerce and tourist centres. I recognize that basically the same type of travel as is involved on those highways also makes up the traffic on Highways 11 and 17 through the rest of northern Ontario, so similar changes will be carried out on those thoroughfares at the time of the conversion.

The hon. member for Grey-Bruce suggested there would be a lot of confusion regarding the change to metric. I would just have to say that the decision was made a number of years ago that Canada was going to change to the metric system. Agreement was entered into, I think about four years ago, by all transportation ministers in the provinces in concert with the federal government as to what the new speed limits would be and when the implementation would take place. It was agreed that all provinces should change to the metric system simultaneously. I believe most provinces have already passed their legislation and will be implementing the metric speed limit at the same time in September, as was agreed some time ago.

The hon. member made mention of the changes in the registering of temperatures from Fahrenheit to Celsius. I have to point out that that change was made some time ago by the federal Ministry of the Environment, which is responsible for the weather broadcast. It does not have anything to do with the principle or the details of this particular bill.

The hon. member for Ottawa Centre referred to the possibility of breaking down the multiples of 10 to a lower gradient, or more options for different speeds. This, again, has been the result of a study and an agreement between all provinces that as much as possible standards should be maintained the same. Ten kilometres is equivalent to about six miles-per-hour. If you were to break it down; in the old system the gradient was five, you had a 25 miles-per-hour limit or 30 miles-per-hour limit, or 35 or 40 or 45. These don't vary too much to the pro-

posed new schedule with the 10 kilometre changes. If you went to five-kilometre differences you would be getting down to about three miles-per-hour changes.

I think it is much better to have a standard system. In many of the conversions they are very close. There are the 100 kilometre limits for the freeways, the equivalent of 61 point some odd miles, maybe close to 62 miles-per-hour. The 50 miles-per-hour relates almost identically to the 80 kilometres. On the way down, I believe 50 kilometres-per-hour, which would be the standard speed limit in builtup areas, is about 31 miles-per-hour imperial. So taking into consideration the number of options based on the multiples of 10, I think, gives a very good system and will be common with the other provinces.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that responds to the queries that the hon. members had during the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

MOTORIZED SNOW VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved second reading of Bill 20, an Act to amend The Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, 1974.

Mr. Cunningham: As indicated, Mr. Speaker, we will support the bill.

Mr. Philip: We will support the bill, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, this bill is just similar changes to bring motorized snow vehicles under the metric speed limits, compatible with the previous bill.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for third reading.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

House in committee on Bill 19, an Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments to this bill? I understand the minister does have an amendment to section 3. Are there any comments, questions or amendments prior to section 3?

Sections 1 and 2 agreed to.

On section 3:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: May I have the minister's amendment; thank you.

Hon. Mr. Snow moves that section 82 (16)(a) of the Act, as set out in section 3(10) of the bill, be amended by striking out "\$1" in the second line and inserting in lieu thereof "1.25."

He further moves that clause (b) of the said subsection 16 be amended by striking out "\$1.50" in the third line and inserting in lieu thereof "\$1.75."

He further moves that clause (c) of the said subsection 16 be amended by striking out "\$2" in the third line and inserting in lieu thereof "\$2.50."

He further moves that clause (d) of the said subsection 16 be amended by striking out "\$2.50" in the second line and inserting in lieu thereof "\$3.25."

Is there any discussion on the minister's amendments?

Mr. Cassidy: I had a different matter to raise on the section, if I could raise it after the amendments.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The Chair didn't hear the comments from the hon. member.

Mr. Cassidy: I'm sorry. I had a different brief matter to raise on that section but not related to the amendments, if I could have the consent of the House to raise it after the amendments.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The Chair will deal with the amendments first. Is there any discussion on the amendments?

Mr. Philip: We are in agreement with the amendments, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the fact that the minister responded to a memo that I had. It was our one concern with this bill and this amendment takes care of the only major concern that I had with the bill. I appreciate the minister's action on this, so we'll support the amendments.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does the hon. member for Ottawa Centre wish to comment on any other part of that particular item?

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, with reference to the matter raised by the member for Sudbury, I'd like the minister to seriously consider giving the same status he has given to Highway 69 to the highways in eastern Ontario which are well away from built-up areas. I have in mind in particular Highway 7, I think it is, running from Ottawa down past Madoc toward Peterborough. It seems to me that portion of eastern Ontario, plus the portions in Renfrew county, very clearly are similar types of areas and have similar types of distances for people to travel as exist in the portions of northern Ontario north of

Coldwater or north of Huntsville and therefore should get the same treatment.

I make that representation to the minister. I hope he would consider it seriously and not continue to treat those areas, which are essentially isolated and sparsely populated, in the same way as densely populated areas in southern Ontario.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Would the hon. minister wish to respond?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would just like to say, Mr. Chairman, I do not really feel that the highways the hon. member has mentioned are in the same category as the two I have discussed with the hon. member for Sudbury. I would hesitate at this time to in any further way dilute the changes in the speed limits that we introduced at the beginning of 1976, which I think have significantly assisted in the reduction of deaths and injuries and damages on our highways.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Is there any further discussion on any sections of the bill prior to section 20, to which the minister has an amendment?

Mr. Philip: Yes, just a question of the minister based on his answer to the member for Ottawa Centre in his comments on second reading. Do I take it that advisory speeds will end in the digit five, as recommended in the 11th annual conference of ministers responsible for motor vehicle administration, and that while all speeds will be in the digit 10 the advisory speeds will end in the digit five? Is that the intention?

Hon. Mr. Snow: No, I don't believe so, Mr. Chairman. The only posted speeds that we will have and the only speeds provided for in the legislation are those shown in section 4 of the bill, which all end in the digit 0.

Section 3, as amended, agreed to.

Section 4 to 19, inclusive agreed to.

On section 20:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The hon. minister has an amendment to section 20.

Hon. Mr. Snow: moves that section 20 be struck out and the following substituted therefor: "This Act comes into force on the sixth day of September, 1977."

Motion agreed to.

Section 20, as amended, agreed to.

Section 21 agreed to.

Bill 19, as amended, reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments.

[3:45]

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 19, An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

Bill 20, An Act to amend The Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, 1974.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch moved second reading of Bill 26, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act.

Mr. Renwick: We support Bill 26 on second reading. There are some minor changes in the grant of discretionary authority to the Board of Internal Economy with which our caucus is in agreement.

Mr. Breithaupt: As a member of the Board of Internal Economy, it came to our attention with respect to mileage rates and other items that would change from time to time because of increased expenses that this was a practical suggestion to make in these amendments to The Legislative Assembly Act. The members of the board have considered these matters and we certainly are more than pleased to support this legislation.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for third reading.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 26, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Before calling further orders for the afternoon, so that we might share the order with those who may be going to committee or otherwise, we thought we might proceed with orders 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the order paper, and then go into committee of the whole House to deal with revenue bills that are in committee. It is the understanding that if there are to be any votes they might be stacked to about 5:50 p.m. so that we could clear up the revenue legislation at that time.

LAND SPECULATION TAX AMENDMENT ACT

(continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend The Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I wish to thank the members who participated in last evening's

debate on this bill. There was some very interesting background material provided by the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) who gave us an historical background to the Act. He indicated that he understands the thrust of the Act and both he and the member for Sarnia (Mr. Blundy) indicated that that party is in support of this bill. I was also pleased to receive comments from the members for Oriole (Mr. Williams) and for Durham West (Mr. Ashe), both of whom made quite pithy comments and who obviously had a considerable sympathy for the content of the Act.

Mr. Cassidy: But.

Mr. Maeck: Now we come to the "but."

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Very considerable comment was made by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) who gave an historic background from the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism which was formed, I believe, in 1971 and carried on for several years producing reports before it produced a report on land ownership. I did intervene in the debate at a certain point on a point of order, which the Speaker ruled out of order, because I felt that an important aspect of the deliberations, both of that committee in its recommendations and by this government in its decisions, had been forgotten or ignored or overlooked. The member commented specifically on the fact that the government did not adopt the recommendation of the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism with respect to foreign ownership of land in Ontario.

In reply, I would like to say that it was not a case of rejecting the recommendations of that committee; rather it was a case of choosing a workable solution. As it turned out it was a tax system that was chosen, in face of the unsettled constitutional issue of the time.

In 1974, when The Land Speculation Tax Act and The Land Transfer Tax were introduced, the Prince Edward Island case on the right of a province to restrict foreign ownership was before the Supreme Court of Canada, as I noted last evening. Rather than await the outcome of that case—and after all, it was not decided until well along in 1975—the government took more immediate action by introducing a 20 per cent tax on non-resident acquisitions of land in Ontario.

This course was considered to be more effective because outright prohibition as the select committee had recommended would have raised in Ontario the very constitutional issue that was then being fought before the

Supreme Court. Indeed, even the tax on non-residents introduced in 1974 was objected to by some members of this House as being unconstitutional.

I think that the member would agree, if he were here, that a constitutional challenge to Ontario legislation similar to the Prince Edward Island statute would only have served to delay the very action that was required to resolve the problem recognized by that committee and by this government. However, the government was aware of the problem as a constitutional problem, and through the Attorney General did intervene before the Supreme Court of Canada.

During that year—that is 1974—the constitutionality of the land transfer tax that was introduced was unchallenged and it was accomplishing the objective of the government in controlling foreign ownership of land and to a large extent was accomplishing the thrust of the recommendations of the select committee.

Control of foreign ownership of land, rather than its indiscriminate prohibition, has always been the aim of the land taxes introduced by this government. It has also been the aim of the foreign investment review board established for substantially the same purpose by the government of Canada.

The member also commented on commercial and corporate real estate ownership recommendations. In this connection, and concerning the 75 per cent ownership test recommendation, such a test, I think, Mr. Speaker, is quite reactionary. I think it is unrealistic in terms of business practice and would have been out of line with the federal foreign investment review program emerging at the time—that is, in 1973 and 1974. Ontario currently uses a 50 per cent test for residency.

The member also commented on leaseholds, and cited several instances. In this connection, I think the Act provides for a tax exemption where corporations acquire leasehold interests of less than 50 years. Anything longer than that really does constitute ownership. Any longer period would destroy the purpose of the tax. This would seem to me to be exactly what the select committee recommended in its recommendations to the Legislature.

Towards the end of the evening the member for Wentworth (Mr. Deans) made an impassioned appeal concerning the ownership of land. He outlined his understanding of the intent of the land tax legislation which, briefly put, was to stop escalating land prices without a contribution to the value of the land and to place some restrictions on non-

resident ownership of land for the same reason.

I do not argue his expression of intent. However, I do think that the hon. member goes on to relate land speculation and a prohibition of land ownership to non-residents and immigrants, and it is here where we part company.

Mr. Cassidy: It's not the first time.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: We treat land speculation, whether by residents or by non-residents, alike. We do not discriminate. The legislation also encourages non-residents to become residents in this way and it permits immigrants to make an economic contribution through land ownership to our province without penalty.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The member for Wentworth said nothing about immigrants during his speech.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: In short, Mr. Speaker, we do not penalize foreigners, nor are we against them; and this seems to me to be the basic difference between this government and the third party in the Legislature.

Mr. Renwick: That's just total nonsense.

Mr. McClellan: And it is vicious nonsense.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I think the hon. members should read Hansard for last evening. In fact, various comments expressed by members of the third party indicate that the party is not just trying to maintain the status quo with respect to these two land tax bills, but it is advocating a much more extreme position with more stringent restrictions on immigrants and in a sense taking a reactionary approach.

Mr. Renwick: No restrictions at all on immigrants have been mentioned in the course of our debate on this bill.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right.

Mr. McClellan: You are skating on thin ice.

Mr. Cassidy: You just fell over, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will continue. Everyone else had a chance to make their comments.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I think only two members of the New Democratic Party and one member of the Liberal Party commented on the amendments concerning the removal of farmers as speculators in the bill. I thought this was really one of the very important parts of the bill, and I was disappointed that there was no greater discussion of this particular aspect.

Mr. Breithaupt: You don't want every member to comment, do you?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: No.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I just want to point out to the minister that the very first comment made on behalf of the New Democratic Party was to commend the government—we don't do that often—on that particular reference to removing farmers from liability. She is certainly misleading the House.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. The hon. minister will continue.

Mr. Renwick: It sounds as though she is going to make this into a speech somewhere, sometime.

Mr. McClellan: She had better not.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I did note this in my preliminary remarks Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Renwick: I see this as the first version of one of her public speeches.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor. Thank you.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment further on the amendment to the farm property reduction provision in this Act because over a long period of time, it seems to me, there has been an unintended inequity for lifelong farmers and their spouses. I appreciate the support and the very favourable comments made by the opposition members but I felt that perhaps there should have been a rather stronger expression.

It often happens that a farmer of many years must retire from active farming, either because of ill health or age, but he wishes to keep his land; and ultimately he ends up renting it for a few years before he sells. In other situations the farmer may die, leaving his spouse to continue to hold his farm as her principal residence and as her lifelong residence, and she too must end up renting it for a time before she sells it.

It seems to me that it's unfair and actually quite unthinkable that farmers and their spouses who have occupied and farmed their land for so many years should be classed as speculators merely because, through no fault of their own, they are no longer actively engaged in operating their farms.

The purpose of the land speculation tax is to penalize speculators in land. It is not to impose a burden upon people such as lifelong farmers who have contributed to their community and to their province. This amendment, I think, removes the existing unfair anomaly relating to such farmers.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is for Bill 14. Shall this motion carry?

Mr. Cassidy: No.

Mr. Speaker: As many as are in favour of Bill 14 being read the second time will please say "aye."

As many as are opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.
[4:00]

CORPORATIONS TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener moved second reading of Bill 15, An Act to amend The Corporations Tax Act, 1972.

Mr. Breithaupt: With respect to the matters raised in The Corporations Tax Act, we are generally in favour of the changes that have been made, other than the one which is referred to in section 4. We believe that the increase at that point which re-enacts section 131 of the Act by having such a change of 50 per cent of the rate of tax on taxable paid up capital is an excessive change.

During the election campaign, this party had a strong opinion on the matters of changes of taxes and rates within this province. We still continue in that opinion and we think that to increase this rate by, in effect, 50 per cent is excessive.

Other than that particular item, we do favour the other changes that appear in the bill.

Mr. Renwick: I want to speak to the amendments to The Corporations Tax Act very briefly, but I do want to put a suggestion to the minister for subsequent consideration. When we have a budget which deals with a number of changes in the taxation of corporations or any other field, some of which require legislation and some which do not require legislation but merely changes in regulations of one kind or another, then it's very difficult to get an overall view simply by dealing with the one bill in isolation.

Surely there must be some method by which these bills—the budget bills—could be sent out to some special committee struck for the purpose of looking at all of the implications in each of the fields of the bills, rather than dealing with them item by item.

I did want to make that comment, because on balance we support The Corporations Tax Act amendment, although we have reservations about some of the matters which were dealt with in the overall field of corporate taxation and that were raised in the budget. Rather I want to try to put what we're doing in the perspective of the total package of the effect on the corporations of the tax

changes recommended by the government. To do so, one can only refer, of course, to the way in which the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) has dealt with corporate taxation in his budget. I think my remarks will provide the reason why we will not oppose the increase in the paid-up capital tax and why we will not support the amendment with respect to paid-up capital tax which we understand will be placed at some point in committee by the official opposition.

It is interesting to note that in the budget of the Treasurer relating to this whole question of the role of the corporate tax, we find that the budget anticipates a revenue from corporation taxes of about \$1,256 million, which is a significant increase in the corporate taxation expectations of the government over the fiscal year which has just passed. That is broken down to \$996 million in income tax and \$260 million in capital and premium taxes.

We find, of course, also in the budget that the corporation tax structure—that is both income tax and paid-up capital tax—amounts to about 11 per cent of the revenue expectations of the government for the current fiscal year. Then, when we turn to the actual budget address of the Treasurer, we find that it is intended that the tax reductions to corporations will amount to some \$126 million. There is a reduction of \$42 million anticipated in the corporate income tax revenues and a further reduction in corporate income tax revenues of \$84 million, making a total reduction of \$126 million; less, of course, the anticipated increased revenue from the paid-up capital tax of about \$50 million. This leaves a net corporate tax reduction proposed by the Treasurer of some \$76 million.

This is explained by a series of comments made by the Treasurer with respect to the taxation of corporations; and he dealt with it under a number of headings. He dealt with it under paid-up capital tax, oil and gas taxation—that is the depletion allowances—inventories allowances, fast writeoff for manufacturing and processing machinery and equipment; and he dealt, also, with the specific tax provisions that will apply to the venture investment corporations and how corporations investing in the venture investment corporations will be entitled to further writeoffs or deductions in calculating their taxable income.

In the information bulletin which was put out by the government following up on all of these matters, we again find these same matters are itemized so that the overall

effect of the corporate package of taxation measures related to corporations produces a net effect which is not reflected at all in this bill and which only deals with two aspects of it. That is the question of the capital tax, oil and gas production or resource allowances, and earned depletion.

These are significant changes which have been made by the government in those two areas. It seems to us, Mr. Speaker, that it would be advisable for each of the specific sections in the bill to be dealt with in committee, but I did want to have the opportunity of placing in perspective the whole of the corporate tax package and the net effect which it will have on corporations in all of its aspects, a number of which, of course, are not touched upon in the bill.

I do think it would be appropriate and in order for the minister to comment further about the question of the intentions of the government with respect to the fast writeoff for manufacturing and processing assets to be continued; and how that change will be affected, as I understand it, by change in the regulations. I would appreciate it if the minister would comment about the question of inventory allowance when three per cent of tangible moveable property will be allowed as a corporate deduction for tax purposes. There are certain other areas of changes in the overall effect of the budget on corporations which need to be dealt with.

I would further ask the minister if she would comment about when it is anticipated the legislation regarding the 250 per cent reduction allowed to corporations which invest in venture investment corporations will be introduced. Perhaps I have misunderstood it, but it's my understanding that now that the corporate structure for venture investment corporations has been established, or is in the process of being established by the bill which was passed earlier, that there is now going to be a specific tax bill introduced to provide for a 250 per cent deduction for those corporations with respect to their investment in those new venture investment corporations.

I may be wrong, and it may be possible that can be done by way of regulation, but when I referred to the information bulletin of April 19 on the Ontario budget dealing with corporation tax changes, there is the statement that legislation to affect these changes will be introduced following the passage of The Venture Investment Corporations Registration Act, 1977. I would anticipate that we can look forward to the introduction of some legislation, either later in this particular session or in the continuation

or new session in the fall. I would appreciate the minister's comments on some of those matters which I have raised.

Ms. Bryden: This bill, as my colleague has pointed out, does a number of things, some of which raise corporate taxes and some of which reduce corporate taxes. On balance, the reduction is much the greater; but the reductions are not mainly in this bill so that it is difficult to deal with it as a total picture of corporate tax changes by this government at this time.

The tax on paid-up capital is going up by 50 per cent. I don't know whether the official opposition will feel that it must apply its eight per cent limitation to a tax of this sort, which is really on a sector of the economy that has been grossly undertaxed in the past. Therefore it seems to me that what we need is catch-up, not a limitation. In fact, with this increase in tax, Ontario will be ahead of the other three provinces which have a tax on paid-up capital by 50 per cent, but it still is really a peanuts tax. According to the budget speech, it is going to yield in this fiscal year a total of \$55 million.

I would ask the minister to explain the discrepancies in the table on page 23 of the budget statement, which shows that the capital tax will yield a net increase of \$50 million and that there will be a decrease of \$3 million from the capital tax under the decrease column; which it seems to me comes down to a gain of only \$47 million and is not a \$55-million gain. The table is particularly confusing because the capital tax is listed under increases as net, and yet there is a further entry under the decreases which doesn't appear to have been netted out.

At any rate, \$55 million is a very small amount of increase on the corporations when one considers their contribution to total revenues in this province has been going down steadily over the last decade. They were about 17 per cent in 1965-66, and they are down to less than 11 per cent now. We would have liked to have seen the minister, instead of increasing this particular tax, looking at some other alternatives.

The Smith committee called the tax on paid-up capital a nuisance tax, and it really isn't a good tax. It is not based on ability to pay, it depends on the capital structure of a corporation. For the large corporations with lots of income tax it is a tax deduction in calculating their income tax, and therefore it can be considered as partly a transfer of revenue from the federal government to the provincial government rather than an increase in the contribution of the corporations to the economy of this country. For smaller cor-

porations, ones in a non-profit position, it can be quite onerous.

There is relief in this bill for corporations with paid-up capital of \$100,000 or less, and that is useful for small businesses, but basically, it's not a very good tax and it doesn't yield very much revenue. I point out that a one point addition on the corporation income tax would raise approximately \$80 million. Ontario is three points behind BC which has a 15 per cent corporation income tax rate.

[4:15]

In fact, on the corporation income tax, like on the minimum wage, we are close to the bottom of the heap. Our rate is 12 per cent and it hasn't been increased in 10 years. Only Prince Edward Island and Alberta are below us at 11 per cent. Four other provinces are ahead, two at 15 per cent and two at 14 per cent. Three are even with us.

I suggest that it would have been better, instead of increasing the paid-up capital tax, to have increased the much more fair corporation income tax. That would have meant fewer taxes for the rest of the citizens of Ontario, who at the moment are considered to be among the highest taxed in the medium- and middle-income levels, according to recent studies.

For instance, there was a study that showed that in 1976 a family of four in Ontario making \$8,226 a year would pay in income tax, property tax and OHIP, a total of \$1,078 out of \$8,226. In Manitoba, the same family would pay \$682.

So we have some problems in supporting this bill because of the overall effect. On the other hand, any increase in the corporate tax we feel is justified, and therefore we are supporting this particular increase.

The other things the bill does, as my colleague has mentioned, is to parallel the federal tax concessions which came out in the last two budgets, for a revenue loss of \$42 million. The 25 per cent resource allowance for oil and gas is part of it, and further incentives for frontier oil and gas and mineral exploration.

We note that the three per cent inventory valuation adjustment, which the provincial Treasurer announced he was going to adopt from the federal budget, is not in this bill. I would like to ask the minister if it will be done by a separate bill to be introduced later in the session or this Parliament, or if it will be done by regulation. It is estimated that it will cost the Treasury \$40 million as a further concession, and I very much question the implementation of this proposal at a time when the Treasurer has just an-

nounced that he is having a committee study the whole question of inflation-accounting and whether such a thing as an inventory valuation adjustment is really justified or not. It seems to me it would be better to wait until that report is out before the province contemplates any sort of adjustment.

The other thing this bill does is to replace the automatic depletion of 33½ per cent that this province has had with earned depletion, as in the federal Act. I must say that this comes to me with considerable surprise, because for years the Ontario government has fought the substitution of earned depletion for automatic depletion, yet the Carter commission report said that automatic depletion was really just a reduction in corporate tax for resource industries, that it really was not justified on tax measures or equity measures. As a result of their recommendations, the federal government finally adopted the earned depletion, but for years the Ontario government has opposed that tax reform. Apparently they have seen the light.

However, what we don't like about this bill on the depletion question is that it is all to be done by regulation, so that this Legislature will never have an opportunity, until the regulations are tabled and before the committees, to study them; we will never have the opportunity, before the regulations are passed, to discuss the level of the earned depletion to be allowed. That is another trend in this government that we oppose. The question of depletion should have been written into the bill and the terms of it should have been here for us to debate.

The same is true of the continuing fast writeoff. It was all very well to put it in for a period of two years, possibly with the idea that it was needed at that time, but to continue it indefinitely without introducing an actual amendment to The Corporation Tax Act seems to me not giving this Legislature a chance to discuss the whole question of whether fast writeoffs are a proper incentive.

I'd like to draw the attention of the House to a recent study by the C. D. Howe Research Institute, which is not exactly a socialist organization. It examined incentives of this sort and came to the conclusion that in certain circumstances they were not likely to produce results in the way of stimulating the economy. This is what it says: "In a stagnant economy"—and that's certainly what we have right now, Mr. Speaker—"or one fraught with uncertainties, any

positive impact from further tax concessions is likely to be quite limited." The provincial Treasurer doesn't seem to have realized that situation or read that particular report.

What I'm saying is that the whole bill really is soft on the corporations. The share they are contributing to provincial revenues is really peanuts—10.4 per cent from these two taxes, the corporation tax and the capital tax in 1977-78. But, Mr. Speaker, personal taxes—income tax and sales tax—will contribute 43.1 per cent to total revenues; and if you add in OHIP they will contribute 49.9 per cent. That's just under 50 per cent from individuals and about 10 per cent from corporations. No wonder the corporations seem to be contributing up to the maximum allowed under The Election Finances Reform Act to the Conservative Party; they're being well looked after.

So those are really our comments on the bill. We would have liked to have seen a different sort of corporation tax. We feel that it means higher taxes for the rest of the population and we feel that it is moving in the wrong direction, but we are supporting it because there is a small increase in the capital tax.

Mr. Cassidy: I just want to make one comment in addition to the comments by the member for Beaches-Woodbine and the member for Riverdale. That is that there are misleading statements that were made in the budget with reference to this particular bill. I'm not quite sure, maybe the hon. minister can explain the curious omissions in the budget with reference to The Corporations Tax Act.

The budget refers to the adoption of the federal 25 per cent resource allowance for oil and gas companies, and the move to earned depletion several years after that change was made. In fact I think it was about six years ago that the federal government made this change which is at last being accepted by the province. The reference was also made to the new arrangements that will be made for frontier oil and gas exploration. I have to say that I'm not quite sure why the urgency of either of these things applies in Ontario, given the fact that we haven't got more than three or four oil wells left in the province. I do understand that this is related to the calculation of income before its attribution to various sources.

However, what bothers me is the fact that in the course of making that amendment, the government decided in its wisdom it would propose reverting to regulatory powers in

order to determine the amount of resource allowance or depletion allowance that would be given to mineral resource companies and timber-exploiting companies in the province. Whether it is Reed Paper or Inco or companies like that, they will no longer have to deal with the Legislature in trying to get a better deal from the provincial tax collector. All they have to do is deal with the member for St. David, with the Treasurer and with other members of the cabinet.

I assume, the 33⅓ per cent resource allowance which they now have will be continued. However, there is nothing to stop this cabinet or a cabinet a year or two down the line, increasing that to 35 per cent, to 40 per cent, to 50 per cent; or even to a position where every nickel of their profit from exploiting the resources of the people of Ontario will be exempted from tax, courtesy of the Ontario cabinet, Bill Davis, Premier.

I think that is objectionable. Later on, in committee stage, I have an amendment to that particular point which I will put forward. I don't propose at this time to enter into the issue of whether there should be a depletion allowance or resource allowance at all, but I would simply ask the official opposition to consider very carefully an amendment—I believe they have already received a copy and if not I'll send them one—which will go along with the government's proposals about giving regulatory powers for determining oil and gas income but will restore the status quo from the 1974 Corporations Tax Act amendment as regards the 33⅓ per cent depletion allowance for mineral companies and timber companies, rather than giving the possibility of an unlimited resource allowance to be set by regulation.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, you are aware that we would like to join issue and maintain that that resource allowance be cut down to absolutely nothing, because it is a rip-off of resources which belong to the people of Ontario and certainly don't belong to the companies that happen to have permits to exploit those resources on Crown land or underground. All I am asking right now—and I say this to the official opposition—is let's go back to where we were before.

What has happened is that back in the palmy days when the Treasurer was Treasurer in 1971-72, there was ministerial discretion or cabinet discretion on these depletion allowances. Then in 1974, when the Hon. John White was Treasurer, he quite correctly put it into the legislation and brought a whole series of different kinds of depletion allowances into law and codified them into one figure of one third, 33⅓ per

cent. Now, as in so many things, the present Treasurer is trying to undo work which was done by the previous Treasurer; they flip-flop all over the place.

It is my opinion, and our opinion as a party, that this is a matter which should properly be subject to the Legislature. If we are going to give corporate welfare to companies like Inco and all of those other big mining and timber companies in the province, it seems to me that should be a decision that is made by the Legislature of the province and is not snuck through the back door by the cabinet through an order in council.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I would remind the members of the opposition parties of a simple statement set out in the budget which was first outlined by the Premier (Mr. Davis) when he went to New York in May to speak to a group of investors and to discuss Ontario's economic situation. At that time he outlined a four-point economic goal for the province which he thought would take us well into the 1980s. These goals, very simply expressed, were: First, restraint in government spending; secondly, improvement of the climate for investment—a most important one; thirdly, a need to increase the competitiveness in our world markets—especially for our industry; and fourthly, to improve labour and management relations.

It seems to me that those goals are exceedingly worthy and must be borne in mind when one is examining the budget and its tax bills which are written in support of the budget. If we are going to balance our budget by the fiscal year 1981, if we are going to maintain a healthy economic climate for investment and business in this country and in this province—

Mr. Cassidy: Dreary years ahead.

Ms. Bryden: You balance it by increasing the corporate tax.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —I think that we have to bear those goals in mind and keep them always with us.

Mr. Cassidy: What about the human resources of this province?

[4:30]

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: With that as a background and relating that to this bill, it seems to me that this bill proposes amendments to The Corporations Tax Act which would give effect to two parts of this government's budgetary policy concerning corporations.

Mr. Cassidy: Handouts and more handouts.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: The objectives of the changes are twofold and easily said, they imply simplicity and balance.

In terms of simplicity, this government is committed to a long-term program of tax simplification and to this end this bill proposes important steps. It would have the province parallel the federal treatment of resource allowances for oil and gas exploration and operation. The existing system of automatic depletion for firms in these areas would be replaced by a system of earned depletion, and in addition,—

Mr. Cassidy: The Gods are angry.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —special allowances announced by the federal Minister of Finance for frontier oil exploration would also be paralleled.

Secondly, the paid up capital tax for small businesses would also be simplified and reduced. Small companies with paid up capital of between \$50,000 to \$100,000 would pay a new flat rate of \$100.

In terms of balance, I think it's well known that this government is committed to balance in its tax system. Accordingly, the bill provides, and proposes to increase, the rate of tax for the paid-up capital tax for banks and large companies by 50 per cent. I don't consider this is unreasonable at this time and I think that the comments that we have had in connection with it are not fair comments in light of the turn-around we have in our economy at this time.

The member for Riverdale raised a number of points to which he wanted to receive a response. He asked whether further legislation would be forthcoming in terms of the VICs. It is my understanding that the Treasurer will probably introduce some further legislation later this year.

In terms of regulations to provide a resource allowance for oil and gas resources, these will parallel the federal regulations, which are found in section 12(ii) of part 12 of the regulations to The Federal Income Tax Act.

The regulations for automatic depletion allowance already exist in the regulations to The Corporations Tax Act, and this bill proposes to include the 33½ per cent rate as part of its regulation.

The member for Riverdale also queried the two-year, fast writeoff. Simply, the government is continuing the two-year, fast writeoff indefinitely, essentially because it parallels Ottawa's own setup. It has two effects: The first being simplification—that word again—and it avoids confusing differences between Ottawa and Ontario to provide an easier return for a corporation. Secondly, it reinforces incentives to encourage real job-creating investment. I think this is important because of

the current economic slowdown which is related to low levels of business investment.

The member also commented and asked for a response on the three per cent inventory allowance. This is designed to counteract inflationary effects on cost and will ultimately have four effects, I think. First is the fact that it parallels the recent federal changes. Secondly, it is designed to reduce accidental taxes on so-called inventory profits, which are, after all, only bookkeeping profits and not actually realized. Thirdly, I think it's, frankly, a useful piece of simplification. Finally, it is particularly useful to small corporations that have cash flow problems in carrying their inventory.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine raised some points. She criticized the paid up capital tax as a revenue source. I thought this was rather surprising. The 1977-78 projected capital tax revenue for this province is \$230 million, the 1977-78 projected income-tax revenue is \$996 million; the 1977-78 premiums of tax is projected at \$30 million. This totals \$1,256,000,000—that's a not inconsiderable revenue.

Now the final speaker, the member for Ottawa Centre had some considerable comments to make on depletion allowances. I think that he should understand that in order to implement the budget announcement concerning depletion allowances, section 62(1) and (2) are being re-enacted, removing the 33½ rate from the Act. This rate will be set out in the regulations, as I've already noted. The reasons for the re-enactment are as follows:

Firstly, to simplify the Act the alternative amendment would add two new subsections to the Act to permit the deduction of the earned depletion allowances, and would re-enact section 62(1) and (2) to restrict deduction of automatic depletion allowances to mineral resources.

Secondly it would parallel The Federal Income Tax Act. The re-enactment is required so the wording for the depletion allowance provisions will parallel the federal earned depletion allowance provisions, as announced in the budget. I think this re-enactment will permit two systems of depletion allowances to be used without increasing the complexity of the Act, and that's a very desirable goal.

If the federal Act requires only two subsections to permit the deduction of a number of allowances, that is the earned depletion allowance is just one of several allowances, the same wording should be sufficient for the Ontario Act.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

GIFT TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener moved second reading of Bill 16, An Act to amend The Gift Tax Act, 1972.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the hon. minister have an opening statement?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Very brief remarks: This bill implements the changes to The Gift Tax Act introduced in the Treasurer's budget statement. Under these amendments the exemption for individuals is increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and the exemption for the aggregate amount that one person can give in a year is increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000. The effect of this bill is to recognize the effect of inflation and to keep exemption levels under The Gift Tax Act in line with those under The Succession Duty Act.

Mr. Peterson: We don't see any grounds for disagreement with this bill, and our party will be supporting this bill.

Mr. Roy: Great speech, way to go.

Ms. Bryden: We have the same dilemma on this bill that we have with regard to the corporations tax bill. There are a few things in it that we like, but the main thrust of it we do not like, and that is the doubling of the exemptions allowed under The Gift Tax Act.

I'm not surprised that the official opposition doesn't find any difficulties with that; but we certainly do, because those exemptions are a further erosion of the taxation of inheritances, really, in this province, and a further casting of our tax system in the direction of looking after the well-off and not basing it on ability to pay.

I note that the provincial Treasurer, in his budget speech, gave us his reason for doubling these exemptions as simply "to permit the distribution of assets prior to death." That's the main reason for having a Gift Tax Act. It is to prevent the distribution of assets prior to death in order to escape estate tax or succession duties. While it is reasonable to allow small sums to be given to people who will be inheriting estates from, say their parents, to give exemptions of the size that are in this bill is, in our mind, excessively generous. It is really going to erode succession duties, because a great many estates will be distributed to the children before the death occurs. So we are unhappy about the bill from that point of view.

However, there are some other things in the bill that we would not like to see defeated, and so we would hope the minister would bring in two separate bills on this.

The other things, Mr. Speaker, are mainly amendments to The Gift Tax Act which were introduced last fall and which were allowed to die on the order paper because some of them depended on the new legislation on successions which did not pass last fall either. The ones we like are the ones which wipe out discrimination against illegitimate children. This has been in our statutes for too long, and there is an amendment in here that does that. I hope it won't have to wait until the successions Act is finally passed. There was also an amendment extending gift tax exemptions to certain defined common-law spouses in situations where there were children and there was a fairly stable relationship. I think that sort of amendment also should be supported.

There were two other amendments in the bill from last fall which are also repeated in this bill. One is to improve collection procedures by enabling the minister to put a lien on land in Ontario for the collection of duties or gift tax. I think there was some question when this came up last fall as to whether this would be constitutional or not, but certainly if it does improve collection procedures and is constitutional we would support it.

Then finally there was a clause from last fall's bill extending inter-spousal exemptions to certain trust arrangements. I'm told by people who go in for estate planning that the trust arrangements envisaged are practically never set up and that the legislation is probably almost a dead letter or perhaps out of date. I don't know whether the minister agrees with that assessment; that really it is not particularly relevant and is not extending any benefit to spouses, because so few or practically none plan their estates under the kind of trust arrangements set forth in the Act.

At any rate we would support those particular carryovers from the bill that died last fall, but when the clause about the doubling of the exemption rate comes up we intend to oppose that in committee.

Mr. Cassidy: I just want to add a couple of points to the points made by the member for Beaches-Woodbine, Mr. Speaker.

You know, there are three parties in this Legislature. It's certainly clear from the debate we've had over the last three or four days on the succession of budget bills, that there are two parties in this Legislature, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party, which is the official opposition, that are dedicated to the preservation of capital in this province; and there's only one party in the

province which is dedicated to the interests of ordinary people.

Mr. Grossman: And the destruction of capital.

Mr. Cassidy: That's certainly clear from the supine attitude taken by the member for London Centre in regard to this particular bill; it really is, and it pains me.

Mr. McClellan: Relax, Larry.

Mr. Ruston: Listen; think how painful it is to us.

Mr. Cassidy: Let me put some figures on the record about this particular bill to show who gets the tax exemptions, who gets the handouts from this particular bill.

A \$75,000 gift currently bears \$8,750 worth of tax or 11.8 per cent—it's not a heck of a lot—but this bill will give a \$5,000 tax cut on that particular bill, reducing the tax to \$3,750 or five per cent.

On a \$150,000 gift, the tax was \$31,000 or 20 per cent, and it will be cut down to \$22,500, for a saving of \$8,750 to those very limited mortals who have it in their power to write a cheque for \$140,000 to the niece, nephew, son or daughter of their choice. On a \$250,000 gift, the tax is going from \$76,000 to \$63,000 or a saving of \$12,500.

Under this bill, in 10 years somebody who wishes to, can transfer \$1 million to their sons, daughters and heirs and the amount of tax they'll have to pay is equivalent to the interest on that \$1 million for one year. It's ridiculous. But the member for London Centre gets up and says it's a fine bill and the minister gets up and says it's a fine bill.

Mr. Warner: Some opposition!

Mr. Cassidy: They're quite prepared to give these kinds of handouts from these kinds of gifts to people with wealth in the province, when they're not prepared to take necessary action in order to look after the ordinary people in the province who are being driven to the wall by the price of land, driven to the wall by inflation, driven to the wall because of the Anti-Inflation Board and driven to the wall because of the policies of this government which are endorsed by the official opposition.

Mr. Nixon: This reminds me of that speech on the Winter Palace steps.

Mr. Cassidy: That's why we're opposing this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the message gets home to people like the constituents of the member for Ottawa East and the tenants in the riding of London Centre—

Mr. Mancini: Where is your majority?

Mr. Cassidy: —that when it came to the crunch, they were prepared to vote for \$5,000 handouts to millionaires when they weren't prepared to vote for more than a plugged nickel for people in genuine need in the province.

Mr. Roy: The only comment that we would make is, very simply, that the policy of various parties has been clearly outlined by the member for Ottawa Centre. I'm pleased to hear him expound socialist philosophy because I think it clearly brings out the renegade, the radical, the man attacking the barricade. I would only say this, Mr. Speaker, in making comment. He said: "I hope the message gets through to the voters of Ottawa East." I tell you, a few weeks ago I received a message from the voters of Ottawa East. I'd like to compare that message, Mr. Speaker, with the message—

Mr. Nixon: They didn't even count the ballots; they just weighed them.

Mr. Roy: —that the member for Ottawa Centre got, considering the type of opposition that he had.

Mr. Warner: Is this on the principle of the bill?

Mr. Roy: Yes, right on. Mr. Speaker, in closing, all I say is that considering the Conservative candidate he had against him, he can only be described as a turkey. He hardly got a 2000 majority.

Mr. Nixon: He just barely squeaked in.

Mr. Roy: Can you understand, Mr. Speaker, with your majority? We're not afraid of the message we get from the voters in this party.

Mr. Mackenzie: What about the turkeys you ran in the north? There were some real turkeys in the north.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do any other members wish to speak to the principle of the bill?

An hon. member: For a change.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If not, the hon. minister.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I thank the members for their contributions. I thought it was rather appropriate that the member for Beaches-Woodbine should launch her remarks by quoting the Treasurer from his budget, which is that the purpose of The Gift Tax Act was to permit the distribution of assets prior to death. It's very simply put in a very few words and is exactly what this bill does.

Mr. Deans: She thought it was appropriate, too. That's why she did it.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: It also, I think, reflects a very human trait, one which is well acknowledged and understood—

[4:45]

Mr. Cassidy: What compassion you have for the rich.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —by many other provinces, inasmuch as only Ontario and Manitoba and Saskatchewan now have a gift tax Act.

Ms. Bryden: That's because they think the federal government should do it.

Mr. Roy: Which provinces have the gift tax?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Mr. Roy: The socialists in BC didn't bring it in.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I think that the member should realize something about the doubling of exemption. Her remarks contained the statement, "Doubling of exemptions equals a further erosion of wealth and inheritance taxation." She seems to lump inheritance in there, and I think she does this incorrectly. Or else, otherwise, it is just a philosophic difference between us in terms of the principle.

In any case, I think it noteworthy that Ontario has chosen to remain in gift tax and succession duties while it is a fact that most other provinces have opted out. Nevertheless, increased exemptions are mainly to compensate for inflation on estates and simply are similar to the federal indexing of personal income tax. There is one thing. I think the member has gained the impression or certainly she indicated that she thought the spouse trust of little value; it's not useful, I think were her words. Actually, the spouse trust would be of immediate benefit to a donor who wants to provide benefits to his spouse, but it cannot be used for estate planning nor was it ever intended to be used for that purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I stand corrected on a previous statement. My staff remind me that it is not Saskatchewan, it is Quebec, Manitoba and Ontario which have maintained the gift tax system.

Mr. Deans: Wrong again.

Mr. Warner: You are always wrong.

Mr. Deans: It is bad enough when you can't remember only three provinces.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener moved second reading of Bill 17, An Act to amend The Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Act.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Very briefly, this bill proposes amendments to The Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Act which are designed to facilitate the even-handed and equitable administration of this tax.

Firstly, it proposes to register all suppliers of middle distillate fuels, principally diesel fuel and home heating oil. Secondly, it proposes to register with my ministry all commercial users of such fuel where it is used for taxable purposes. Finally, it proposes to clarify procedures under which taxpayers may appeal assessment and apply for and receive refunds.

I should stress that these provisions apply only to suppliers and commercial users of these fuels, not to private users or homeowners. Implementation of these proposals will help in assuring that all those liable to tax will pay that tax and that those who are exempt will not.

Mr. Breithaupt: I was interested in the explanation given by the minister with respect to the bill. In reviewing the changes which are proposed, it would appear that these are to attempt to tighten up some of the administrative areas within the operation of The Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Act. As a result we will support the bill.

Mr. Makarchuk: On the same bill, I have to make the comment that we intend to support it. But I think the minister is going about it the wrong way to try and resolve what has been a problem in Ontario for some time. There is no question that a lot of truckers have been operating, or try to operate, with fuel on which tax has not been paid, or they try to evade paying taxes. That stems from a lot of other problems, one of the big ones being the fact that the Ontario tax on motor fuel is high compared to some of the other provinces.

I can see that what this bill is going to do is create another level of ponderous bureaucracy that will be out on the highways harassing the truckers. I suppose one of the advantages of the thing would be that those truckers who used to vote Tory will, after this bill comes into effect, probably be voting some other way.

I think the minister did not in this case examine some of the possible options that are available. The problem here is the fact that if the fuel is used, it is difficult to decide which fuel goes into the truck and which

fuel goes for home heating. I think if some system could be devised where the supplier—whether the refinery or the wholesaler—would be responsible for all the tax on fuel. Perhaps some credit system or some arrangement could be worked out so that the homeowner can get the tax refund. Perhaps the minister then would have a fairer system.

Perhaps what would happen is that if she is allowed to have this rather ponderous bureaucracy that she is going to develop right now, she will be able to collect the tax at the source instead of at the various outlets that are in existence in the province. I think this system would work better.

I think in this case, some of the other options have not been examined. I think there are other ways of ensuring that the truckers pay for the fuel as they are supposed to and at the same time to ensure that the people who are using it for heating purposes are not taxed or penalized.

Mr. Cassidy: Just to add a note to what the member for Brantford said, in committee stage I think that we should take action to implement what the minister has said, at least with relation to the liability that exists in this bill for private individuals who are not operating a commercial truck. The wording is so sloppy in this particular bill that it can have the following effect. It says that anybody driving any kind of a vehicle in the province can be stopped and they can be asked to prove that tax has been paid on the fuel in that vehicle. The fuel by definition, by regulation, is diesel fuel, but there is nothing to stop the regulation from being changed to make it gasoline of all kinds.

We could have a situation, again by action of the cabinet with no control by the Legislature, where everybody in the province would be subjected to a kind of police state on the roads, where they will have to show that every ounce of gasoline, or other kind of fuel in their car, was tax-paid. I think that's wrong. I think the Liberal Party at least, with their traditions of individual rights, should support an amendment which would make this apply for commercial truckers, but would exempt any vehicle that was private and not a commercial vehicle.

Right now, in fact, we have a number of diesel vehicles, such as Volkswagen, Peugeot and Mercedes cars—

Mr. Ruston: All imported.

Mr. Cassidy: That's true—Land Rovers and Jeeps. I believe there are other certain kinds of diesels now being planned by General Motors, so it isn't more than a year or two hence before we will begin to see on the

roads domestically produced passenger vehicles using diesel fuel. If the minister believes that everybody who buys a diesel-fuelled car should be obligated to stop and show a receipt for every gallon of fuel they bought for it then, she should say openly that she believes in that kind of limitation of people's liberties. I hope that she agrees to accept an amendment appropriately to exempt people who are not commercial truckers.

[5:00]

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I was pleased to learn from the opposition party that they support the bill and understand its import. I have to say, I was a little distressed by the remarks from the member for Brantford who suggests taxing at the source as an alternative. I think that he would just turn this province into a horrendous bureaucracy if we were to implement such a proposal. The same applies to the recommendation from the member for Ottawa Centre. Really and truly, he'd want to turn us into a police state. I think—

Mr. Cassidy: No, the minister is doing that now. She is doing that now. I am exempting the little guy.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: No, indeed, Mr. Speaker. This is not the case at all. The fact is that he's anticipating a situation which has not arisen, which is not a problem. The bill deals only with an existing situation—

Mr. Cassidy: She asks us to trust her. That's very difficult.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener:—and I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this government and this province is sufficiently flexible; if we see a problem emerging at some time in the future we can take steps to head it off. But to simply amend the bill now in anticipation is, to me, a ridiculous situation, and I would not accept such an amendment.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT

House in committee on Bill 12, An Act to amend The Retail Sales Tax Act.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments to any section of the bill prior to—well, I guess there wouldn't be, prior to section (1)(ba). I have an amendment from the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Blundy).

Mr. Peterson: Has that amendment been moved, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I just have notice of it. No, it hasn't been moved.

Mr. Peterson: I'd like to move it in the absence of the member for Sarnia. I would like to move that amendment. I believe notice has been given to all of the other members. I'm not sure, but it's my understanding that that amendment went to everybody.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I believe it went not only to the Chair, but to the critics of the other party.

Mr. Peterson moves that subsection 1 of section 1 of the bill be struck out and that subsection 2 of section 1 be renumbered as section 1.

Mr. Peterson: The effect of that, Mr. Chairman, is to remove the retail sales tax payable on the extra amount that would have been exigible under The Environmental Tax Act.

We expressed some concern at that time about a tax on a tax. We also expressed some concern about the order of these bills, having felt that it would have been better for the government House leader to bring down The Retail Sales Tax Act after the environmental tax. Now, to the best of my knowledge at this particular point in time, the government will not be calling forward Bill 18.

I gather that bill is going to sit on the order paper. I really don't know for sure the government's plan on that. I understand only that it's going to sit on the order paper for an indeterminate period of time. But it seems to me that that argument in itself supports our particular position that there's no place in this bill for adding sales tax on top of the environmental sales tax, particularly when we don't know if it's ever going to come forward.

For that reason, I'd ask the third party members to think about that. There's no sense cluttering up a statute with unnecessary words or sections. I hope that in all reasonableness they will look at it to support us.

Mr. Cassidy: I was aware the amendment was coming, although I haven't received a copy yet. Incidentally, on a point of order, I believe that there may be some confusion about the new arrangements because I certainly suffered it. I consulted with the Deputy Clerk and I understand the Deputy Clerk would prefer to have three or four copies of any proposed amendments, but it then is the responsibility of each party to also dis-

tribute copies of proposed amendments to the various critics. I certainly ran into difficulty with that. That may have been what happened with the member for London Centre.

Mr. Peterson: I apologize. Unfortunately our critic had to go to Sarnia this afternoon and I was under the impression he had looked after that. I know we gave verbal notice. I am not sure of the extent of the written notice, and for any confusion I personally take the responsibility. I am sorry. The point is well taken.

Mr. Cassidy: Okay. That is fine. I think the procedure in handling these amendments is going to take a bit of time to get used to.

Having said that, I am afraid I am going to disappoint the member for London Centre at this point. We have had some consultation and some thought about this particular amendment and since the matter was raised the other night, and while wondering whether the proposed section was even in order and given the fact that The Environmental Tax Act had not yet been proposed, I would appreciate if the minister can say whether in fact it is the intention of the government to propose that bill. I noted that when the House leader announced the order, he did not include that bill in the bills that were going to be brought forward today by the hon. minister.

Our position about The Environmental Tax Act is already on record, Mr. Chairman. Since we assume that that is going to be the decision, and the opinion of the House is that The Environmental Tax Act is going to be defeated, what that means is that this particular clause is nugatory. It is simply a piece of legislation which will have no particular effect.

However, I am not particularly happy having the entire debate about the cans tax on The Retail Sales Tax Act. I believe that that debate quite properly belongs on The Environmental Tax Act, when or if that particular Act is brought forward. For that reason we don't wish to have that debate now. Therefore we will not support the amendment. We will allow this particular piece of legislation to stay in the statute books although we assume that it is likely to be a dead letter.

Mr. Roy: I just want to say this. I find some inconsistency here in the approach being taken. First of all, on the government's side: Why don't you withdraw or take away that particular section and go along with our amendment if you are not going to go ahead with Bill 18? Because if there is anything that I consider to be somewhat improper it is that we start passing legislation for no

purpose at all. That is always contrary to the things that we should be doing here.

It seems to us that we have enough things to do which we consider to be in the public interest than going through an academic exercise of passing legislation which apparently will have no application. So I must say to the minister that I really think what you should do is to be consistent and give some leadership in providing or bringing forward legislation. Do not have us go through an exercise where you are putting forward legislation—

Mr. Cassidy: Don't expect any from her.

Mr. Roy: —which will have no meaning. I think you would save a lot of grief on all sides if you just withdrew, or agreed with our amendment to just take that subsection out. Then we would have no problem and the bill could go through.

Having said this I am surprised as well at the position taken by the people in the third party, because I find again if they agree with the principle that I brought forward—that we are not going through an academic exercise—then they should support our particular amendment and assure that we are not going through an exercise for nothing.

On the other hand, if they oppose the other Bill 18, again they are giving some acquiescence to a piece of legislation which is in support of Bill 18, and that is inconsistent somewhat. I have some difficulty in understanding the NDP's approach to our particular amendment.

I want to say to the minister: Please relieve us of this exercise. Withdraw or undertake to accept our amendment, or take out that particular subsection, and we can continue then in a procedural and logical discussion of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Deans: I didn't, unfortunately, catch all of what was said by the member for Ottawa East. But why would the minister be doing this, since she doesn't intend to proceed with The Environmental Tax Act anyway?

Mr. Peterson: You are supporting it, for God's sake.

Mr. Deans: I'm just curious.

Are you back again? I learned something about you last night. I was kind of curious about you.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Perhaps we could return to the amendment.

Mr. Deans: I just want to know, why would you be putting this into an Act now, when it's evident that you don't intend to go ahead with the five cent tax on cans in any event? Why would you not simply delete this and

if, as and when you arrive at some other appropriate measure to deal with the litter caused by cans and the reclamation processes that have to be put into place, you then come forward with some amendment that will accommodate your needs?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I think some members in this Legislature are making certain assumptions and are asking questions which seem to stem from an assumption.

Mr. Deans: What is the assumption?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: All that you know and all that I can tell you at this point is that Bill 18 is not being introduced at this time.

In terms of the section and the amendment to the section that we are discussing, the whole point of this is to include the new Environmental Tax Act in the retail sales tax base in the same manner as the federal excise tax is included in the retail sales tax base.

There is nothing very unusual about it. It's a very tidy piece of housekeeping. It makes provision for an eventuality. If the eventuality never transpires then, of course, it is unnecessary.

Mr. Roy: That's what I mean.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: It's an amendment which is not important one way or the other—

Mr. Roy: That's right.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —but it does make a provision for some future point in time. That is all.

Mr. Roy: Don't you understand our point?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I certainly do understand your point. I think you are labouring over something which to me is not very important.

Mr. Roy: Take it out then.

Mr. Chairman, I would say to the minister I think we are in agreement that we are talking about something irrelevant. What are we doing here then discussing a piece of legislation which may or may not have any application?

You know how responsible we are here as the official opposition. You've seen evidence of that. And what I'm saying to you, Madam Minister, is that any time you bring forward an amendment which in our opinion is sensible and logical, we'll support you. But don't bring us stuff here where we are going through an academic exercise.

Mr. Warner: It's silly. It's silly.

Mr. Deans: If you will forgive me, it is silly to go on debating at length something that everyone knows—and the minister says that we are dreaming these things up, some-

how or other. The fact of the matter is that you know and I know that The Environmental Tax Act is not going ahead. If it is not going ahead, why then would you write into law reference to an Act which doesn't exist? It makes no sense. Surely to heaven you understand it doesn't make sense to make reference to something that doesn't exist.

Mr. McClellan: Bring it back when you bring the other in.

Mr. Deans: Why don't you just agree to withdraw that section of the bill and then if you need it again some day, bring it back? I don't think you are going to need it, because it is evident that the proposals that you had before the House are no longer applicable to the scene in the province of Ontario. Don't ask us to pass legislation that applies to non-existent legislation.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Again, the member is making an assumption.

Mr. Deans: I am not making an assumption. It's a fact.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Most definitely he is, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Deans: I am not making an assumption. It's a fact.

Mr. Warner: If you can't get serious about the job, you should resign.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: The member is making an assumption and I think that this kind of debate is certainly academic. There is a point I would like to make. The point was made about responsibility; as a minister I feel a responsibility for bringing you the best possible legislation I can.

Mr. Deans: Then don't ask us to support it.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: That is why this clause is included in this legislation.

Mr. Peterson: I fundamentally disagree with the minister when she says it is not very important. To me it is very important when you have useless legislation on the books. You have legislation that refers to a non-existent Act. Good Lord, at some later time they could sneak out a bill completely different to the one contemplated in Bill 18 now, calling it The Environmental Tax Act. They can completely distort the picture. It wouldn't be the only government that has tried to sneak through something like that. [5:15]

Good Lord, they have an obligation it seems to me to bring in all the amendments to supporting legislation or corollary legislation at the time they bring in The Environmental Tax Act or whatever they call it that time. I think it's extraordinarily bad

principle to have a useless piece of legislation or a useless clause sitting in here. We are going to have to address the merits of that other Act if and when it is introduced. I just think it is fundamentally wrong—and it's not just a little thing it's a big thing—to have a statute like this referring to a non-existent statute.

That's why we're very much against it and I say with respect to my friends to the left, I do not understand why, in view of the sweet reason of the member for Wentworth—I mean he's absolutely right and I don't see why you aren't supporting us.

Good Lord—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Perhaps you would refer to the Chairman just simply as the Chairman, not good Lord.

Mr. Peterson: I was referring to the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Breithaupt: A simple "sir" would be sufficient.

Mr. Roy: You've been called worse names than that.

Mr. Peterson: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I just want to say to the minister I regard this as a serious matter.

Mr. Cassidy: I just want to say that the blandishments of the member for St. David have not moved me one bit. But on some reflection—in particular on the information that that bill, The Environmental Tax Act, is not going to come forward at this time, which neither the member for London Centre nor myself were aware of at the time this debate began a few minutes ago, with that piece of information we are then being asked to make reference in this bill to a piece of legislation which may not come forward in the summer of 1977 and may in fact never come forward at all in the future.

Mr. Martel: You will have to amend the bill.

Mr. Cassidy: The minister, of course, takes the view that legislation should only come in this place once every five or 10 years and should be drawn so generally that anything can be done by regulation without reference to the Legislature. However, we think that it's important that these matters come before the Legislature. It's a very routine matter to make a further amendment to The Retail Sales Tax Act, if that's the government's intention, if they bring forward an Environmental Tax Act in 1978 or in some subsequent year.

So I say with some credit to the member for London Centre, that in part because of your representations, in part even to the

representations of the member for Ottawa East and as a result of our reflection on the matter, we'll support the amendment. Let's get on with the business.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Perhaps we should establish with the committee at this time there was some reference made by the government House leader prior to going into committee that should there be any division on any of the amendments we would stack them until the discussions are finished on all the bills.

All those in favour of Mr. Peterson's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cassidy: One of the most perceptive chairmen in the history of the Legislature.

Section 1, as amended, agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any further comments, questions or amendments to any other section of Bill 12?

Mr. Roy: Are we going to the people?

On section 2:

Mr. Cassidy: Section 2: Just very briefly I think the Liberal Party should explain why it is that they're prepared to see an increase in exemptions of far more than eight per cent when they have this absurd theory that no tax should be increased by more than eight per cent on an absolutely categorical kind of basis. I think they should be moving an amendment that that should only be \$5.50. We support the exemption increase to \$6, particularly because of the impact on the tourist industry.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Chairman, maybe I can help out the member. I don't do this very often, but there's very distinct difference between the government's take and the private sector's take.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Peterson: What our whole position is—it's very, very different and what you are suggesting, that we have suggested, which is not correct, is that everything should be tied to an eight per cent rule, be it exemptions or be it government take or whatever.

Our position is very clear—there is no equivocation whatsoever—that when the government is taking more out of the economy than eight per cent, it should be tied to the AIB guidelines like everyone else's take. That is clearly our position. That has nothing to do with increased exemptions for taxes or whatever. There is absolutely no correlation whatsoever.

Mr. Mackenzie: Take away with one hand what you give with the other.

Mr. Peterson: Where your party and our party have quite a different philosophy is on what government's role is, and how big a piece of the action out of the total gross provincial product or total gross national product they should take. We disagree about that. We will probably always disagree about that. But just so there's absolutely no misunderstanding in your own mind, what you're suggesting has never been suggested by our party—and never will be.

Mr. Cassidy: I can't help feeling that what the Liberal Party is doing in supporting this amendment is actually condoning a 20 per cent increase in the price of prepared meals in the province. It seems to me that's not a particular contribution to the fight against inflation.

Interjection.

Section 2 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any other questions, comments or amendments to any other section of Bill 12?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: In face of the earlier amendment, I think I now must move an amendment to section 9 of the bill.

Sections 3 to 8, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 9:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Hon. Mrs. Scrivener moves that subsection 5 of section 9 of the bill be deleted.

Mr. Roy: We will support you on that one.

Hon. Mr. Welch: You should have spotted that.

Mr. Peterson: We said on the record yesterday, at committee time, that we understood that. But we had advice from the legislative counsel, very frankly, that it wasn't necessary to do it.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, you did. My apologies.

Mr. Peterson: Had we had his advice we would have moved that as a corollary, but we did cover all the angles, Mr. House Leader.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: It's just that the time element is irrelevant at this point.

Mr. Peterson: That's right. No, I would have. If you want it out, that's fine.

Mr. Roy: Have you checked with your back-benchers?

Motion agreed to.

Section 9, as amended agreed to.

Bill 12, as amended, reported.

LAND TRANSFER TAX AMENDMENT ACT

House in committee on Bill 13, An Act to amend The Land Transfer Tax Act, 1974.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments prior to dealing with Mr. Cassidy's motion, which deals with section 1, subsection 1? I guess not. Will the hon. member for Ottawa Centre—East?—read his amendment?

On section 1:

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, there is a very unfortunate confusion going on between the hon. member for Ottawa East and myself.

Mr. Roy: I'll tell you, the people in Ottawa are not confused about it. I'll tell you that.

Mr. Cassidy: We are as far apart on philosophy as we are contiguous in terms of boundaries.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The Chair apologizes for the confusion. Perhaps Mr. Cassidy will move his amendment?

Mr. Cassidy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that on section 1(1)(hb) I anticipate some difficulties with the definition of "residential". Perhaps the minister's advisers could send up an opinion to her on this particular matter, in relation to the definition of "residential".

I'm not sure if I can find exactly what I want here. Chapter eight of the 1974 statutes refers to the acquisition of residential land by non-residents. And it seems to me that there is a very unclear and rather contradictory element in the definition of residential land here in this bill and the use of the words "residential land" in the existing bill as passed in 1974.

As I understand it, "residential land" in 1974 referred to land that could be used for residential purposes but was not at that time being used for residential purposes. In other words, developable land. This definition is rather narrower because it means residential land is land that is attached to a building that is the residence of the occupants, along with contiguous lands that are necessary and used for such residents. In other words, the front yard and the back yard.

If a foreigner, a non-resident, wishes to acquire a house in downtown Toronto, for example, that fits the definition of residential land that is in this Bill 13. But if you look at section 16 of the original bill, it seems to me that the definition of "residential" there is an awful lot wider, or needs to be an awful lot wider, and I think that

difficulties have been created which should be avoided.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Chairman, I think the thrust of the amendment now, as explained by the member, indicates that his whole emphasis is on the definition of residential land. But the thrust of this amendment as contained in the bill is really to try very clearly to define the land that we want to preserve and protect.

The purpose of subclause (ii) in this definition of "unrestricted land"—and that, by the way, as you have probably all noted, is a new phrase—unrestricted land is to include all land that is assessed or used for commercial, industrial or residential purposes, whether or not so zoned. If you limit it only to zoning, that's far too narrow.

A significant amount of land in Ontario is not covered by municipal zoning and assessment, and actual use is the only way to determine whether it falls in the restricted class of agricultural or recreational land. That is the heavy emphasis in this section of the bill.

The amendment proposed would make all residential land restricted land to which the high rate of tax would apply when purchased by non-residents. It would effectively restrict the definition to the narrow category of land municipally zoned for commercial or industrial uses, which is far too narrow to achieve the purpose of the bill. In other words, the bill would fail in its purpose.

Mr. Cassidy: I think maybe we should move on to the amendment given the time and given the fact that there is some hope that we can get this series of bills finished by 6 o'clock.

I've made my point. I hope that the minister and her advisers look at it because—and this is quite apart from the amendment—I think that you are creating difficulties for yourselves, with reference to section 16 of the Act in particular. I'm not a lawyer. I have, however, some experience in these things and I just think that anybody who is a lawyer could go to town on some aspects of the bill, because of the contradictions between the narrow definition of residential land in subclause (hb) and the apparently broader definitions which are entailed elsewhere.

On the amendment, Mr. Chairman, the minister has correctly indicated that, with some reluctance, we are going along here with the exemption of non-resident purchases of land for commercial and industrial use on the grounds that the exemption process, on a case by case basis, which

exists right now, effectively gives that exemption in most cases. This simply broadens it from a specific exemption which is normally granted, as I understand it, to a more general one.

I realize that what's being added in is the purchase of commercial office buildings as investments, even though no jobs are to be created as a result. Nevertheless, I'm looking for something which the official opposition might consider supporting. It is our opinion that it is wrong and unhealthy to have foreign, non-resident investment coming in in very large quantities into the residential sector of our cities, whether that's in the acquisition of apartment buildings or whether that's in the acquisition of residentially zoned land or land used for residential development which has not yet been developed.

The purposes of subclause (ii) are clearly to allow speculative investments in residential land by non-residents. It seems to me that the outcome of that can only be harmful as far as housing prices and as far as the development of housing on an affordable basis for people on ordinary incomes in the province is concerned. That's why I commend this amendment and that's why I hope that it is to be supported by the official opposition and, maybe, by the government.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Cassidy moves that section 1(1)(la) of Bill 13 be amended by deleting the word "or" in subclause (i) and by deleting subclause (ii).

Mr. Cassidy: I believe I sent a copy of this to the member for Sarnia (Mr. Blundy). A copy will go now to the member for London Centre and you have a copy, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Yes. Is there any further discussion on Mr. Cassidy's amendment?

All those in favour of Mr. Cassidy's amendment—

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, the minister.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I'm sorry, does the hon. minister wish to comment?

[5:30]

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I was just going to say that I appreciate the concerns of the member for Ottawa Centre, but I think that he is unduly concerned. The bill is exceedingly well designed to do exactly what we intend, which is to protect—

Mr. Cassidy: You intend but you are wrong.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: —recreational and agricultural land. In terms of the definition

of residential land, we do not see a difficulty in its relationship to section 16 of the Act to which we think the hon. member is referring. I am sorry that he is proceeding with his amendment because I do not think it is a correct one at this time.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Cassidy's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

I declare the amendment defeated.

Section 1 agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any further comments, questions or amendments to any other section of Bill 13?

Sections 2 to 9, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 13 reported.

LAND SPECULATION TAX AMENDMENT ACT

House in committee on Bill 14, An Act to amend The Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments to any section of Bill 14? The hon. member for Ottawa Centre.

Sections 1 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 6:

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that we could spend a lot of time on this. However, most of the points we wished to raise were raised previously. On section 6 I have a couple of questions for the minister which perhaps she would care to answer.

I would like the minister to explain how it is that her ministry was able to calculate three years ago that the revenues from the land speculation tax would be \$25 million and yet the revenues only proved out to be a total of \$3 million in one year and \$6 million in the next. I would like to know the estimated revenue loss from these particular amendments and what is the estimated increase in speculative values which is being taxed. What is the universe that you hope to tax after these particular amendments?

I would like to know what is the current estimated rate of increase in property values which are being taxed according to this Act. What is the number of transactions taking place and what percentage of those transactions will be liable to the tax after these particular amendments? All of those questions relate to section 6.

Just to conclude, in the interest of brevity, I think that the minister has already perceived that we disagree with this softening of the land speculation tax. It is simply a further weakening of the bill. We are therefore intending to oppose section 6 (1), which is

the section that reduces the period in which you can work off the tax from 10 years to five. We will however support section 6 (2) which relates to farming because of the support we indicated in debate yesterday.

I would ask the Chairman to take the vote separately on the two subsections of section 6.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does the minister wish to comment?

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Chairman, I believe figures were mentioned earlier in this debate to the effect that whereas there had been a projection for a very large income resulting from this particular part of the Act, actually that revenue was not forthcoming and it declined in the first year to \$3 million and then rose to \$6 million. I believe the projection now is \$9 million.

Whether this amendment will actually have the effect that we hope it will of stimulating investment and development, I can't say with all certainty because I am just not a clairvoyant. We are confident that the bill will stimulate development. I cannot tell you for certain that it is so.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Does the hon. member wish to speak again?

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, the minister hasn't explained how it is that this ministry and the Treasury could forecast \$25 million in revenue from a bill which subsequently gave total revenues of about \$4 million a year.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I think, Mr. Chairman, the member knows full well the answer to his question and that's why he asked it. It is that the bill was drafted in 1974 and approved in that year when there was a particular volume of real estate sales. That was one of the reasons why the bill was introduced, because we were so concerned about speculation that was going on in land. But the bill was effective. It did exactly what we intended it to do. It inhibited such speculative sales. The result was that the whole thing was crashingly limited. That, coupled with a declining economy, most definitely has limited our revenue from it.

All I am saying to the member, Mr. Chairman, is that the bill worked. It did what it was intended to do. It was successful.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman the bill worked, the minister is quite correct. It worked, but it had so many loopholes that it did not provide any effective deterrent at all to the speculation that was carried on by the large development companies in the province.

I agree with the minister, the bill had the effect of giving the illusion of action and giv-

ing no real protection at all to people who are getting ripped off by the large development industry and by speculative landholders across the province.

We will oppose this section. If you will divide it, Mr. Chairman, I do have a question on subsection 6(2).

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Shall section 6(1) form part of the bill?

All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

In my opinion, the "ayes" have it.

Mr. Cassidy: If I can refer the minister to the very bottom line in section 6(2)(b), this is the only place where the word "farming" is used. I would appreciate it if the minister could say what steps will be taken to distinguish between the people who put two cows on their 100 acres of speculative land and bona fide farmers. I am sure it is not the intention of the ministry to allow a sham to take place in order to avoid this particular tax, or take advantage of this exemption.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: If I could refer the member back to that particular section that he wished to amend, the one which was changed and deleted, where we defined very carefully what is unrestricted land and restricted land, we were introducing the tool of assessment in there, and assessment very clearly defined what is farm land. There has to be a basic or a minimum income derived from the land and that, I think, is \$2,500 net. And there most definitely has to be a clear and working value of the land.

I have to say that having been a member of the rural community myself, I am well aware that assessors and many others are aware of who is a legitimate farmer and who isn't. No one gets kidded around in the country, I can tell you that.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, the section that the minister referred to does not form part of this bill, because it is a reference to The Land Transfer Tax Act. Is the minister saying that the word "farming" on the designated land refers to farming as defined under The Assessment Act—that the property must be defined as farm land for assessment purposes? If that is the case, would the minister consider putting that into the legislation so that it is clear, rather than leaving it ambiguous as it is right now? Because if that is the case, we could ask the officials to stand that particular clause to make the change and to come back to it in 10 minutes while we deal with another bill.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Chairman, I would be glad to consult—I frankly think it is unnecessary, but I will consult with them. Excuse me.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The hon. minister.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Chairman, the bill is well drawn, and is clear. There is one other factor, which is that applications of this nature, if there was anything at all irregular, would be directed to the minister for approval. So all the way through there are controls. I assure you no one is giving away the store.

Mr. Cassidy: Very briefly, we won't move an amendment but I can't say that I have great confidence in the fact that the matter will come before the minister even if she does claim to have a rural background. I think that this particular part of the legislation is not well drafted and that it's wrong to leave it as vague as that. I just simply want to register our unhappiness at the way that this has been done. If it was another minister maybe in another government, we might have more confidence that the store was being guarded. That said, the basic purpose of protecting legitimate full-time farmers is one with which we agree and, therefore, we will support this section.

Sections 6 to 9, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 14 reported.

CORPORATIONS TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I believe Mr. Cassidy has amendments on various sections. The first amendment that the Chair is aware of is section 2. We assume section 1 will carry. Does Mr. Cassidy wish to speak to his amendment and move it?

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2:

Mr. Cassidy: In fact, that is the only amendment we have on this particular bill. In the spirit of co-operation I am prepared to confine my remarks to section 2(1). There is no evidence that we have that the minister's answers are particularly satisfactory when we raise any other points anyway, so I'm not sure if it's worth the trouble.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Mr. Cassidy moves that section 2 of Bill 15 be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "2. Subsections 1 and 2 of section 62 of the said Act, as re-enacted by the Statutes of Ontario, 1974, chapter 75, section 4, are repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, there may be deducted in computing a corporation's income for a fiscal year such an allowance, if any, in respect of an oil or gas well or the processing to the equivalent of crude oil or wellhead gas from a petroleum-bearing mineral resource, as is prescribed by regulation.

"(1b) There may be deducted in computing a corporation's income for a fiscal year such amount as an allowance, if any, in respect of

"(a) a mineral resource or timber limit or,

"(b) the processing to the prime metal stage or its equivalent of ore from a mineral resource that is 33⅓ per cent of the amount of the production profits or other subject of allowance for the corporation for the fiscal year as is prescribed by regulation.

"(2) For greater certainty, it is hereby declared, that in the case of a regulation made under subsection 1 or 1(b):

"(a) There may be prescribed by such regulation an amount in respect of any or all,

"(i) oil or gas wells or mineral resources in which the corporation has an interest, or

"(ii) processing operations described in clause b of subsection 1 that are carried on by the corporation and,

"(b) notwithstanding any other provision in this Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may prescribe the formula by which the amount that may be allowed to the corporation by such regulation shall be determined."

Mr. Cassidy: The opposition critic, the minister and you, Mr. Chairman, have got copies of the amendment. I have to say that the last part of it, which is simply drafted or drawn from what's in the bill already, is Greek to me. It certainly indicates that we cry out, in particular in the Ministry of Revenue, for a course in clear drafting of legislation because the stuff is more than even most tax lawyers, I suspect, can easily get their minds around.

I might say as well that I'm sorry that the minister was not particularly co-operative in requests to get further information in relation to these various bills in addition to the budget documents that were tabled some time ago, despite the fact that the extra information is in the hands of that phalanx of officials whom she has brought in in order to back her up.

This particular amendment has a very simple purpose. It is to respect the intention of the budget of giving power of regulation for determining depletion allowances for oil

and gas exploration and processing of oil shale and that kind of thing, while maintaining the present 33⅓ per cent depletion allowance for mineral resources and timber limits that are exploited apart from oil and gas.

[5:45]

Mr. Chairman, as I said in the second reading debate, whatever we may feel about that one-third automatic depletion we feel it is better to put it in the legislation than it is to give to this government the power to increase the depletion allowance to 40 per cent, 50 per cent, 75 per cent or even to 100 per cent. That is why we have put forward this piece of legislation.

I see the deputy minister looking at me. I did ask his people if they would draft this particular amendment. I have to say to the minister that I am sorry they were not prepared to co-operate. It seems to me that officials do work for the government of the people of Ontario and not for the Conservative Party and I regret that lack of co-operation.

If there is any technical problem with the amendment I am quite happy to accept any changes that may be necessary in order to make the amendment acceptable. I hope that the official opposition understand the purposes of this amendment, which are simply to segregate oil and gas from other minerals and from timber, and to continue to treat timber and mineral resources as they have been treated since 1974. And I hope the opposition will support this amendment.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Chairman, I regret the member's remarks concerning my staff. I would point out to him that he placed them in a most difficult and embarrassing position inasmuch as he presented them with a conflict of interest.

How in the world could you expect the staff who are working on the development of legislation for our tax bills to also draw legislation for you, objectively? I am sorry, I think that you were advised to seek assistance from legislative counsel available for just that purpose. I think that was the appropriate thing to do, and I am sorry that you made those remarks.

Mr. Chairman, I would point out that there is an error in the amendment as proposed. The amendment includes an allowance for processing oil and gas. This allowance is disallowed under the present regulation 302 (2b) of The Corporation Tax Act, so I think that in itself places this amendment in jeopardy.

However, I would also point out that some of the changes are rather sweeping and that

the member is proposing something which was not intended. Most definitely our amendment was kept as simply written as possible. We were attempting to keep it in line exactly with the federal recommendation, and this is in line with other provinces in this country. We are not out of step. We are in step, and maintaining that kind of simplification and synchronization. I deplore the member's amendment, frankly.

Mr. Cassidy: With respect, Mr. Chairman, three points. In the first place, it is no conflict of interest to ask for officials of the government of the province of Ontario to give advice to members of the Legislature, whatever party they may happen to represent. I reject completely the statements by the minister, and it is the influence of this minister that leads to that kind of an attitude that civil servants who work for all of the people of Ontario—

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member would return and speak to the amendment.

Mr. Cassidy: If I am irrelevant, Mr. Chairman, then the minister was certainly irrelevant. I really find that rather upsetting.

The second point, Mr. Chairman—the points referring to the processing of gas- or oil-bearing mineral resources was something that I did get advised upon by her officials. If it is wrong, I am prepared to take it out. I will make that motion right now. But because of her influence in denying any reasonable kind of dealing with the officials, if it is wrong I am sorry about that. But I put the blame, not on the officials, but on the minister.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order please. The hon. minister has a point of order.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Chairman, I really can't sustain the member's comments. I have never instructed my officials either in this ministry, or in any other ministry, to ever be unco-operative with a member of the House, no matter from what party.

I was totally unaware of the member's calls into my ministry this morning because I was in cabinet. I didn't hear about it until just before I came in, so I gave no instructions to them. And I believe that they were co-operative and provided you with the information and answers to your questions as you asked them. The only thing they said to you was they thought that you should have someone else draft your legislation, and I think that was appropriate. You placed them in a position of having a conflict of interest.

It was an embarrassment for them. I think that our legislative counsel, whom I am familiar with and have used many times myself in the past, are exceedingly competent and are there to be objective and provide independent and objective advice to members in the drafting of their legislation. That's what they are there for. I think it was not correct to ask my officials to draft your legislation.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Perhaps we could return to the actual amendment.

Mr. Cassidy: The officials, as the minister said, were certainly very co-operative today in providing advice, as I may say officials usually are in the government. This is as a general comment. However, from time to time the influence of ministers does work in a rather negative direction.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Order, please. Perhaps we could speak to the amendment.

Mr. Cassidy: The only point I wanted to raise before we take the vote on this was that if you simplify tax legislation the way this minister wants to act, you will simply give to the cabinet by regulation the powers to decree any kind of a tax in the province of Ontario without reference to the Legislature. That's the simplistic kind of approach that she takes. We think it's wrong.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Cassidy's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "nays" have it.

I declare the amendment defeated.

Section 2 agreed to.

Section 3 to 8, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 15 reported.

GIFT TAX ACT

House in committee on Bill 16, An Act to amend The Gift Tax Act, 1972.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, in view of the time, we've already indicated our opposition to the basic portion of this bill, which is the reference to the giving a much larger exemption level on the gift tax. We think it's wrong and we want to have a vote on it. It's in sections 3 and 4 and, I believe, also in section 5 of the bill. In the interests of convenience, if the Chairman would like to call the vote on those particular three sections, I think that we have probably debated the principle of those sections fairly adequately.

As I said, we stand for the people in the province. The Liberal and Conservative parties

in supporting those three sections will stand for the protection of wealth.

Sections 1 and 2 agreed to.

On section 3:

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of section 3 forming part of the bill will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

Section 3 agreed to.

On section 4:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of section 4 standing as part of the bill will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

Section 4 agreed to.

On section 5:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of section 5 standing as part of the bill will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

Section 5 agreed to.

Sections 6 to 8, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 16 reported.

MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL TAX ACT

House in committee on Bill 17, An Act to amend The Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Act.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments to any section of this bill?

Mr. Cassidy: I want to raise a couple of points in relation to section 5 of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Perhaps we can carry the sections up to 5 then. Agreed?

Mr. Cassidy: Unless other people have comments, yes.

Sections 1 to 4, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 5:

Mr. Cassidy: I had thought of putting forward an amendment but perhaps the way to handle it is to ask the minister for an absolute and unequivocal assurance about this particular point.

I have to confess I am very unhappy about the proposal here. I said that when we were debating the bill in second reading. The idea that anybody driving a motor vehicle using diesel fuel—and, if regulations are changed, anybody driving any motor vehicle in the province—could be stopped and could be forced to show that they have proof by receipt where they had bought their gasoline or their diesel fuel, and, if they fail to com-

ply could be subjected to a fine amounting to as much as \$50 a day for failing to comply, it seems to me is quite unconscionable.

I understand, although we have reservations which we expressed, that a system of tightening up the enforcement of the diesel fuel side of things is being implemented here. We suspect that the coloration used in Saskatchewan is a better means of proceeding, but the government obviously thinks otherwise and apparently they have the support of the Liberal Party for this further extension of bureaucracy and red tape into people's lives.

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: I would like the minister to give an absolute assurance that passenger vehicles and vehicles not used for commercial purposes, whether they be gasoline burning or diesel-fuel burning, will not under any circumstances be stopped, searched or subjected to this particular section of the bill without further reference and legislation in the Legislature.

Mr. Breithaupt: That's easy enough to do.

Mr. Cassidy: If the minister would give that assurance then we don't need to proceed on it further. But I think we have to have that assurance.

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener: I can do that very simply, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes.

Bill 12, An Act to amend The Retail Sales Tax Act.

Sections 5 to 11, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 17 reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with amendment and five without amendment and asked for leave to sit again.

THIRD READING

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 15, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act, 1972.

Bill 17, An Act to amend the Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Act.

LAND TRANSFER TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener moved third reading of Bill 13, An Act to amend The Land Transfer Tax Act, 1974.

Mr. Speaker: Those in favour will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

I declare the motion carried.

LAND SPECULATION TAX ACT

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener moved third reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend The Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974.

Mr. Speaker: Those in favour will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

I declare the motion carried.

GIFT TAX ACT

Hon. Mrs. Scrivener moved third reading of Bill 16, An Act to amend the Gift Tax Act, 1972.

Mr. Speaker: Those in favour will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

I declare the motion carried.

MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bernier, moved second reading of Bill 21, An Act to establish the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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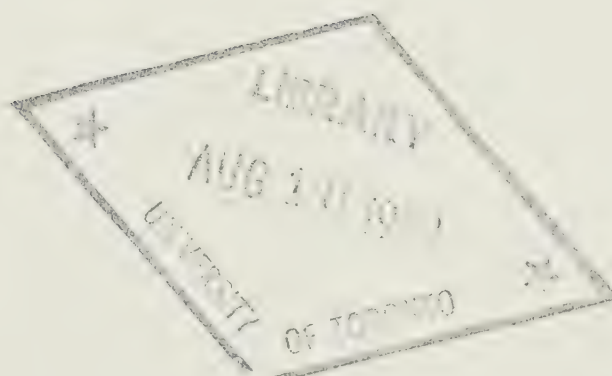
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Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament

Wednesday, July 6, 1977

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, Q.C.

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Hansard subscription price is \$15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Printing Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 9th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1977

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT

Debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 21, An Act to establish the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, you'll recall that when I introduced Bill 21, the bill to establish the Ministry of Northern Affairs, I indicated I would have a statement on second reading. I gave copies of that particular statement to both of the opposition critics and I would like to put the text of the statement on the record.

As you recognize, this is a very historical occasion, a very historic day for those of us who live in the northern part of the province where we have about 10 per cent of the population and command about 90 per cent of the landmass.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier (Mr. Davis) commented during the introduction of the original bill, this legislation represents a renewed commitment on the part of this government to overcome such obstacles as great distances, dispersed population and dependency on a narrow, resource-based economy.

Mr. Nixon: We notice you do that every six years.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I'll get to that point too, Bob.

All of this makes it difficult for northerners to receive the services and have the access to government which the people of southern Ontario have learned to take for granted. This legislation, as the Premier said, also recognizes the wishes expressed by many people in the north for a ministry that would have special responsibility for ensuring that when government decisions are made the special needs and problems of the north will be fully taken into account.

As was stated earlier, a number of my ministry's responsibilities are ones that were previously vested elsewhere in this government. The Ministry of Northern Affairs will take over responsibilities for community and regional priority budgets and townsites development in the north, all of which were formerly the responsibility of the Ministry of

Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs. Northern Affairs will also assume responsibility for the northern Ontario resources transportation program, the resource access road program—

Mr. Reid: That bothers us.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —and the isolated communities assistance program, formerly administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Similarly, the establishment of priorities for northern road construction will be transferred from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Mr. Reid: That bothers us.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: And on July 1 1977, Mr. Speaker, my ministry assumed responsibility for the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission,—

Mr. Reid: That bothers us.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —including norOntair and the telecommunications system which serves the entire north.

Mr. Nixon: We haven't had a committee investigating that for quite awhile.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In the association with the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, Northern Affairs will be seeking opportunities to create new recreational attractions. This will be done in close co-operation with municipal councils, the tourist industry and other related businesses in the north.

Many industries in the north will benefit enormously from the continuing program of improvements which the government will make in transportation systems of northern Ontario over the next five years. New and improved highways, resource access roads, municipal and remote air strips and stepped up services by rail and air. Some of these initiatives, Mr. Speaker, are already under way.

This program, to be co-ordinated by the new ministry, will augment the hundreds of millions of dollars which this government will meanwhile be spending on the maintenance of the north's existing highways and other new road construction, either directly or through provincial grants to municipalities. This government's total investment in all forms of transportation facilities in the north

through the next five years will amount to more than \$800 million.

As has already been announced, the Ministry of Northern Affairs will also be working with the Ministry of Natural Resources on a three-year program to step up mineral exploration and development, to improve the stability of the mining industry by ensuring future sources of supply. Meanwhile, through the regional priority budget transferred from Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, the new ministry will undertake regional projects to benefit the north generally and to see that the installation and improvement of basic municipal services and the establishment of industrial parks make it possible for the towns and cities of the north to attract new industries.

As well as co-ordinating the work of other ministries in the north, the Ministry of Northern Affairs will bring government closer to the people of the north. With five regional and district offices established in key centres and six new northern affairs offices—

Mr. McClellan: All in your riding.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —that are being set up to augment the existing offices taken over from Natural Resources, the great majority of personnel in this new ministry, including both the assistant deputy ministers, will be living and working in the north.

In my view, the advantage of having a ministry of the north in the north will be enough in itself to justify the passage of this bill. I know that members on both sides of the House agree with that statement.

Mr. Reid: We like the bill but we're not so sure about you.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I can be replaced, I guess.

Mr. Reid: In that case we'll vote for it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Since the earlier version of this legislation was presented, we have made a few additions and changes, mostly to do with matters of a minor administrative nature.

Mr. Nixon: Do you mean since Allan Lawrence's legislation?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would like to draw members' attention, however, to one new section which is designed to provide the government with a reasonable amount of flexibility in responding to emergencies in the north, such as natural disasters and fires which threaten the lives and property of residents. The wisdom of giving the new ministry this capability to respond swiftly and effectively in such emergencies was demonstrated rather dramatically at the time of the disastrous fire which destroyed 152

homes in the town of Cobalt and left 450 persons homeless.

Mr. Nixon: You were responsible for the assistance or the fire?

Mr. Martel: No, for the fire.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Our government responded to that crisis very quickly with an immediate allocation of \$500,000 for clean-up and emergency housing, and later pledged additional assistance at the rate of \$4 for each dollar raised locally for disaster relief. I should mention in passing that the government also allocated \$500,000 for the Ministry of Housing to provide 50 mobile homes for families whose houses were destroyed in that fire.

Mr. Reid: You create a new ministry for that?

Mr. Nixon: Look at what they could have done if they had your salary to apply to that fund?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In another emergency situation I was able to announce that my ministry, in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, would provide well improvements for livestock farmers facing serious drought in Thunder Bay, Kenora, Rainy River, Algoma, Manitoulin Island and other parts of the north.

Mr. Martel: It takes you that long to write a cheque even.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would just like to take a few moments now, if I could, and read into the record some of the comments that were listed in the various newspapers across northern Ontario, to give you some idea, Mr. Speaker, of the impact this announcement had on northern Ontario, and the thrust and the direction in which we hope to be going.

Mr. Martel: I could read a few too. You have misplaced them.

Mr. Reid: They all say they want the ministry but not the minister.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Is that right?

Mr. Martel: You'd better get a new deputy minister. He has got to have those ready.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I think it's only right that I start with the Espanola Standard of February 9, 1977. Just to quote briefly it says: "Lane says new ministry to increase development."

Mr. Nixon: Is that good old "for"-Lane?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: "Besides responding to the strong sense of need throughout northern Ontario for a distinctive voice in cabinet at Queen's Park, Mr. Lane said the government's move will speed up development."

Mr. Nixon: He promised that two elections ago.

Mr. Martel: What lane are you talking about, the passing lane?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: John Lane, the member for Algoma.

Mr. McClellan: Suicide lane.

Mr. Nixon: It's "for"-Lane.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Another interesting comment was the enthusiastic response from the mayor of Espanola: "The mayor, who had supported the idea when it was proposed by Mr. Lane, added that it was about time that something was done about the lack of help from government in dealing with northern problems."

Mr. Reid: We've been batting this around for 10 years.

Mr. Nixon: The mayor is Mr. Foucault.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Right. "Everything is handled by Queen's Park and people in the south don't know what's going on up here. We need something for northern Ontario."

Mr. Bolan: It sounds like Merle Dickerson.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: "Maybe it's not the 100 per cent solution but it's a major move in the right direction."

Also, from the Sudbury Star—

Mr. Nixon: Oh, a fantastic phrase.

Mr. S. Smith: Quite pathetic.

Mr. Reid: Are you going to read all your press clippings?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: My hon. critic from the third party comes from that particular city. This is what the editorial page said on February 10, 1977: "A Good Choice to Head Northern Ministry: The New Democratic Party has been bitterly attacking establishment of a Ministry of Northern Affairs. It may not be so smart, but the north has been asking for just such a ministry for years."

Mr. Wildman: How about the Chamber of Commerce?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: "The demand has centred in northwestern Ontario, it is true, but it has also been heard in the central north. It can't help but be welcomed right across the north."

Mr. Nixon: They had it when Al Lawrence was here.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The article goes on. "He will keep a liaison and this is important. It is important politically as the opposition parties charge. It is also of public importance in that it gives recognition and stature to the north, which this section of the province deserves and needs. Anything which makes

them feel more in the family can't help but be worthwhile." That's from the editorial page of the Sudbury Star.

Another comment—

Mr. Reid: Moving west now.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —from the Espanola Mid-North Weekly, is dated February 9.

Mr. Martel: I thought you had read from the Espanola paper already.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The editorial is headed: "New Ministry Could Be an Advantage." And it says:

"Lo and behold, we have now a new Ministry of Northern Affairs. There was not unanimous approval for such a ministry. The NDP are strong in the north and they were opposing the idea. Then there was the natural cynicism of northerners who have been hearing for years that the north was getting a raw deal and that things would get better."

Mr. Cunningham: Ed Diebel.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The article goes on to say: "The future looks brighter than it has for some time and one of the fundamentals of the ministry should be using northerners as much as possible in their own setting. We do not want another empire dictated and operated from the south." As I pointed out, that was from the Espanola Mid-North Weekly.

Mr. Reid: The first thing you should do is hire a speech writer.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: A little closer to home for my hon. friend from the riding of Rainy River is the Times-News of February 7, with an editorial headed: "Recognition at Long Last." It goes on to say:

"Suddenly we are given something northerners have been urging for many years. A Ministry of Northern Affairs has probably been the subject of more resolutions to governments by northern chambers of commerce, boards of trade and political organizations than anything anyone could imagine, with the possible exception of roads and highways. To have it come about, now indicates Queen's Park has been discussing us and our discontent and has concluded finally that we have a point."

The article goes on:

"It could mean a real breakthrough for the north in dealing with government. Heretofore, our needs in any particular area were only a small part of the concern of the various ministries, more often than not handled by people who had little knowledge of or experience with our special situations." It adds: "Leo Bernier says he wants to bring a new clout for the north at Queen's Park, and we

wish him well." That's from the Times-News at Thunder Bay.

Mr. Hodgson: Where are all your northern members, Elie? They're getting scarce, aren't they?

Mr. Martel: We will be back.

Mr. Reid: Is the minister going back to Espanola again.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, I will be going back northeast again.

I think it's important that we put this on the record, Mr. Speaker: The February 4 edition of the Sudbury Star contained an editorial headed: "Important Works for New Ministry." To quote a couple of brief paragraphs:

"There had been previous efforts to better co-ordinate provincial services in the north but the success level varied with the degree of importance the department seemed to rate with the cabinets of the day." It goes on to say:

"He [the minister] will appoint assistant deputy ministers to live and have their homes in the north in order to give the minister himself the kind of organization he will need to do his job."

Mr. Wildman: They will get at least two new houses then.

Mr. Hodgson: Is the minister giving Elie some consideration as a deputy?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: "As the Star has said many times too, the idea makes sense because it is necessary. Now, let's see to it that it gets to work; there is much to be done."

Back again to another article in the Sudbury Star of January 29.

Mr. Wildman: You like that paper, don't you?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It goes on to say: "The northern ministry is a useful project. Algoma-Manitoulin MPP John Lane is pressing the government to set up a ministry of northern Ontario for the purpose of co-ordinating relations between Queen's Park and these far-off hinterlands of the province."

Mr. Reid: Where is he tonight, he is so interested?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It goes on to say: "Certainly a ministry for northern Ontario would help provide a valuable improved link between the northern communities and our governors to the south. Keep it up, Mr. Lane, it makes sense."

That's just a sampling, Mr. Speaker, of the broad general support that this announcement had across northern Ontario. In fact, I have another one here that I should put in

the record from the North Bay Nugget. I know the member from North Bay would want me to put it on the record. It's an editorial dated Monday, April 11, and the headline of that particular editorial is, "Northern Ontario Future is Riding with the New Ministry."

Mr. Cassidy: In uncertain hands.

Mr. Reid: We are in trouble then.

Mr. S. Smith: Don't you have more confidence in the north than that?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: "Unquestionably," it says, "the most important announcement to emanate from Queen's Park in many a year is the plan for the operation of a Ministry of Northern Affairs. It must be given a fair amount of time to do this. Instant miracles won't happen, but within a minimum of a year there should be tangible evidence that the Ministry of Northern Affairs is working, and working to the benefit of the people of a vast portion of Ontario."

[8:15]

Mr. McClellan: You don't have to listen to this.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It goes on to say that the location of the offices of the deputies matters not much. "What matters is that these offices function well and take hold of the programs which have been designated to them under their jurisdiction." The new ministry won't be understaffed, it goes on to state. "It will eventually grow to 150 persons, only 35 of whom will be located at Queen's Park. The remainder will work and live in northern Ontario." And that's from the North Bay Nugget, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Martel: You are trying hard to prove you are wanted.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Another editorial just a few months earlier than that from the same newspaper, dated February 26, was captioned "Northern Ministry Deserves a Chance to Prove Its Worth." And the Sudbury Star later on, in another editorial: "New Ministry Might Help Bridge the Communications Gap."

So that gives you a good idea of the broad support, not only in the newspapers of northern Ontario, but certainly on the radio stations, in the editorial comments of the television stations across northern Ontario. Certainly the response to this ministry in northern Ontario was shown very clearly on that event that we have just gone through on June 9.

Mr. Nixon: It's where you do all your advertising. The editorials were right next to the Conservative government ads.

Mr. Cassidy: Where are those new members for Timiskaming and Cochrane South?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I know I will have more to say after the members contribute in a very positive way to the establishment of this new ministry. But I just want to make one correction in the minds of some people. We did have a ministry dealing with northern affairs at some earlier date under the former direction of the Hon. Allan Lawrence.

Mr. Cassidy: Where's the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane), and the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Rhodes)?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It was then called the Ministry of Mines and Northern Affairs, but the members know that northern affairs branch was only an information package for setting up of the 25 northern affairs information offices across northern Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: You could have made it an effective ministry but you didn't.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Some members will try to leave the impression that we did have a northern affairs portfolio at that time in total, but that is not totally correct. It was an information package, and that information package now moves over to this new ministry along with the other programs which I have already announced and which I have already spelled out in some considerable detail.

Mr. Cassidy: You blew it and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I indicated some time ago in my own public discussions about the Ministry of Northern Affairs that it had to be more than a co-ordinating ministry; it had to have some administrative responsibility and of course it had to have a budget, it had to have clout.

Mr. Cassidy: Right, including the minister's salary.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: As the members will know from examination of the budget estimates, we have about \$120 million for which we will be responsible.

Mr. McClellan: You will have plenty then.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: This is a substantial increase over the same programs that were in place about a year ago, and this of course will have a tremendous impact on the development and improvement of the quality of life and the development of other matters necessary in northern Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: You have got your hand in it right now.

Mr. McClellan: How much have you got on you tonight?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: As the members examine this bill and study the compendium of background material which was delivered to both parties some time ago, they will see that this legislation creates the general framework required for the establishment and the administration of the Ministry of Northern Affairs. In this regard, it is similar to legislation which has established other ministries. It does not, of course, go into the details of the ministry's programs, which are spelled out in the estimates. Instead, it makes possible a broad range of actions.

My ministry welcomes suggestions from all members of the House for programs and initiatives to be undertaken within this legislative framework to improve the prosperity and the well-being of the north and all of those of us who live in northern Ontario.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Liberal Party, and I will tell you at the outset that we will support the bill on second reading in principle. We feel there is an opportunity for something to be done with this ministry regardless of the way the ministry happened to evolve or come before us tonight.

Those of you—and I'm sure you're one, Mr. Speaker—who have been around here for a while realize that the present Minister of Northern Affairs was in a drastic need, or I should say the Premier and the government were in drastic need, of having that particular former Minister of Natural Resources get a horizontal promotion. Where could he put the former Minister of Natural Resources when the former member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. J. R. Smith) was still with us at that time?

Mr. Nixon: If he'd only waited.

Mr. Reid: If the Premier had known what was going to happen we wouldn't have the Ministry of Northern Affairs. It's a sad commentary that for 34 years the Conservative government has had the responsibility of governing in the province of Ontario, and yet it's only in the last year that they have come up with the brilliant idea, that we've heard from opposition members over the years, that there should be a Ministry of Northern Affairs.

I applaud the government. I don't think their motives were of the purest and cleanest and brightest. I think they had to find a slot for my friend from Kenora. Regardless, this gives us from northern Ontario an extra voice in the cabinet and it also takes some of the responsibility away from Treasury particularly, which has continually loused up things in northern Ontario.

Mr. Makarchuk: Wait until Leo gets at it.

Mr. Reid: What bothers me is the fact that now we have somebody else who's being given that opportunity. The bill is very general in nature.

Mr. Wildman: Very vague.

Mr. Reid: I would have liked it be a little more specific in just what the responsibilities of the minister are. We have the statements of the Premier—they bother me a little as to what the Minister of Northern Affairs is going to do—and we have the statements of the minister himself. There possibly will be some amendments to the bill, but we'd like to get sorted out tonight what the objectives of the ministry are going to be.

The Premier in his statement to the House on the introduction of the bill on April 7 indicated that one of the responsibilities of the ministry would be to decide what studies of a social and economic nature were going to be done.

I could have every page in this House busy for 10 minutes bringing in from my office studies that have been done on northern Ontario. We are studied to death up there. There are more studies, on everything under the sun; there are reviews of studies, there have been briefs on studies—

Mr. Wildman: It is the main industry.

Mr. Makarchuk: It is the major industry.

Mr. Reid: —and to little purpose at all. As a matter of fact, it kept I don't know how many Tories employed over the years, and also many people—especially in the Treasury ministry—running around.

The main reports we've had over the years have been the Design for Development Northwestern Ontario and Design for Development Northeastern Ontario. I'm sure the minister would be disappointed if I didn't quote from the brief that was presented by the Sudbury and District Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Martel: McKeough has membership there.

Mr. Reid: It was in response to the Northeastern Ontario Design for Development, emanating from that repository of all knowledge and wisdom somewhere down in the bowels of the Frost Building, that little group who are experts on northern Ontario because they've all been there at least once in their lifetimes as civil servants in the province of Ontario.

The title, Mr. Speaker, if I could have your attention, gives you the sort of impact of what the brief is all about. The title is A Profile in Failure. Actually that's the nicest part of the document, because after that it gets rather nasty.

Mr. Martel: It's downhill.

Mr. Reid: It's downhill after that.

On the first page it says: "The northeastern Ontario regional strategy is devoid of any strategy of development—physical, economic or social." I'd hate to tell you how many years and how many people are involved in these studies. "It represents the pinnacle of the intellectual bankruptcy of the southern establishment in even analysing the problems of the north, let alone dealing with them effectively."

That almost sounds like a speech from the hon. member for Sudbury East. But I have to agree with the sentiments expressed.

Mr. Martel: I don't make any claims to writing that, although I said it many times.

Mr. S. Smith: You are not a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Reid: We don't need any more studies in northern Ontario. We know what we need in northern Ontario. We have to, because we have been disappointed so often in the past by the existing governmental ministries that we have to hope again that we will get something out of the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

However, my optimism is tinged just a little with my knowledge of how the minister has operated in the past when he was Minister of Natural Resources.

Mr. S. Smith: A sad example.

Mr. Reid: I gather that the minister's speech writer so far has been restricted mostly to clipping out columns and editorials from the newspaper, or perhaps that is what the Deputy Minister has been engaged in doing.

Mr. Nixon: That's all there is for him to do.

Mr. Reid: It is rather interesting that he clipped out, of course, those that were somewhat approving of the new ministry, but he didn't cut out any of the editorials in relation to the minister's first official act, in deciding where he would put the regional offices in northern Ontario.

For the new members who may not have been aware, the minister in his wisdom, looking at northern Ontario as a region to deal with, doing his best for all of northern Ontario, decided to put the one regional office in the city of Sault Ste. Marie—as far west as you can go pretty well in northeastern Ontario, the most geographically difficult location for most of the people in northeastern Ontario.

Mr. Martel: They weren't even in touch with him.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask you a question, as well-versed as you are

in northern matters, just ask yourself who happens to represent the riding of Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Nixon: Who indeed?

Mr. Reid: Who indeed? I believe it is the present Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes).

Mr. Martel: Switch, switch.

Mr. Reid: Now that, I am sure, had nothing to do with putting that office there, because we know the minister is a man of integrity and honour and that political considerations would not have entered into putting the office in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Nixon: We are lucky it didn't go into Moonbeam.

Mr. Reid: I imagine there was a fairly strong lobby for that as well. It would go with your ski hill, Rene.

Now I don't believe for a minute there were political considerations, Mr. Speaker, but if we take a look at where the other regional office went in northwestern Ontario, it went almost to Winnipeg. I was surprised, quite frankly, it didn't go into Hudson, but I understand the minister sold all his holdings there a while ago. He put the other office, Mr. Speaker, in Kenora, which is the farthest west community in the riding of Kenora.

Mr. Nixon: It should have been in Emo.

Mr. Reid: It should have been in Atikokan, at least that would have been central; or even Dryden, I would have gone for Dryden. But no, the minister, playing the political game, put the ministry office in Kenora. Now I hoped this was only a temporary aberration on his part, but he has had them—I have been here for 10 years and that temporary aberration has lasted 10 years, so I don't know if there is going to be much of a change.

Mr. Speaker, the minister mentioned in his opening remarks that he would be interested in hearing what is needed in northern Ontario. Well I applaud the fact that he is willing to listen to suggestions, but I would think that after his almost 11-to-12 years of being an MPP from northern Ontario, he would have a pretty good idea of what we need in northern Ontario and what is our number one problem in northern Ontario.

[8:30]

Mr. Cunningham: Leo Bernier.

Mr. Makarchuk: You guys rehearsed that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Very charitable.

Mr. Reid: You are supposed to be the straight man.

An hon. member: Here comes the number two problem.

Mr. Reid: And there's number two.

Mr. Nixon: He's trying harder.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I try harder, yes.

Mr. Reid: I must say that we appreciate the job the Minister of Natural Resources is doing. We haven't seen him since he got appointed, and we do appreciate that.

What are the problems we have to grapple with in northern Ontario? Obviously, jobs have got to be one. The minister used that; that was his theme in the entire election. Others are lack of services, lack of employment opportunities and the high cost of living. But I say to the minister that all of these, really, are a function of what I consider to be our major problem, that is transportation and transportation costs; both the lack of transportation facilities and the cost of those facilities when we have them.

We are not going to attract any secondary industry in northern Ontario, we are not going to even attract processing plants, if the cost of transportation is going to militate against those products being shipped out of our region. If we are going to attract secondary industry to begin with, then in many cases we have to bring the materials into northern Ontario to manufacture whatever it is—boats, furniture or whatever we want to do there—and then ship it back out. We have to do something about the transportation system. All the studies you want to do and all the studies you already have all point to that very fact. There was a study done for the Ontario Economic Council—I wondered why it wasn't in this little compendium—by, I believe, Professor Bonsor of Lakehead University.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Do you support that approach?

Mr. Reid: Which?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The professor from Lakehead University?

Mr. Reid: How do you mean support his approach?

Mrs. Campbell: Who has got the floor?

Mr. Reid: I think generally his theory was that products going out of northern Ontario for designation to somewhere else outside of northern Ontario were being shipped out of northern Ontario at a lower rate than goods coming into northern Ontario. The reason is simple. The material that is going out of northern Ontario is in bulk volume—raw materials, generally speaking; ore, unprocessed in most cases; wood forest products, lumber, pulp and paper and so on. These are high bulk volume freight rates that attract a lower price than manufactured

goods or goods that are difficult to handle or that have to be handled more than the raw materials.

Mr. Martel: Do you know this fellow John Reid?

Mr. Reid: Yes, I do.

Mr. Martel: Well, would you ask him to do something about that?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: We can go into that but the minister is now responsible for the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission and so he's got a vehicle at his disposal that perhaps we can use—

Mr. Wildman: They just bought a few new ones.

Mr. Reid: —not only for northeastern Ontario but for northwestern Ontario.

Mr. S. Smith: Reconditioned Swiss ones do a good job too.

Mr. Reid: Until we solve these transportation costs we won't get any secondary industry in northern Ontario. I've got a couple of problems in my riding right now. It's a viable commodity that we are producing but the transportation costs almost twice as much as the product we are selling. It also adds to the high cost of living for us who live in northern Ontario. Our groceries are more expensive. Our gasoline is going out of sight. For our clothing, furniture and everything we need, we have to pay those higher transportation costs.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Licence plates are cheaper.

Mr. Reid: As for licence plates, let's see how much clout the minister has. Has he got the \$10 licence plates on half-tons? How could that have gone through cabinet without his fixing that up in the first place?

Mr. Peterson: How about cigarettes?

Mr. Reid: The minister knows that half the population in northern Ontario drives half-ton trucks.

Mr. Wildman: Forty-five per cent.

Mr. Reid: People who work at the mines are not going to take a \$10,000 car over those roads. The people who work in the bush are not going to be driving cars—you know that. For a lot of people it's the only vehicle they have. If you were serious about giving people a break on high gasoline prices then you could have done something about the half-ton vehicles. I hope that before the night is over the minister will get up and say, "I can prove to you that the Ministry of Northern Affairs is doing something.

We're approving this," or "It's been approved by cabinet."

Mr. Roy: There's your challenge.

Mr. Reid: There you go, there's your chance—one tiny step for the minister, a large step for northern Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: While I'm still on the matter of freight rates and the high cost of living, it harks back to memory that great splurge of a few years ago. That was their last great initiative in the north for the Conservative Party. That was, I believe, John Robarts, when he announced to great fanfare and the rolling of drums and the TV cameras banked up outside, that the Conservative government had achieved the impossible. We were going to have equalized beer prices across the province of Ontario.

Mr. Wildman: What about milk?

Mr. Reid: What about milk? What about gasoline? What about everything else? If we could do it for beer why can't we find some mechanism—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You know the reason.

Mr. McClellan: Public ownership of distribution.

Mr. Reid: We've got high prices now. We don't want them any higher.

Mr. S. Smith: Publicly-owned beer companies, Mr. Reid?

Mr. Reid: The member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Ziemba) wouldn't like that too much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: I know one of the reasons, but the point is that things can be done, and they always seem to be done, around election time. If the Conservative government can come up with that kind of ingenuity, I'm sure they can do something about high freight rates.

The minister has also suggested he is going to be responsible for northern communications. I have had correspondence with the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) and I want to put it on the record—I'll send the minister a copy of the letter—that one of the things we lack is a good communication system in northern Ontario, certainly anything on a regional basis. In some cases, some of our communities have very little communication at all, other than telephone, perhaps radio, and if they have television some are stuck with nothing but the CBC. Believe me, if you think sometimes when you go into some of these communities and people are a little

strange, you should live with nothing but a diet of CBC.

Mr. Cunningham: Can you imagine having the CBC, and Leo Bernier as your member?

Mr. Reid: The only benefit is that on CBC, which most of us get in northwestern Ontario, we don't get to see the minister—that's one of the benefits.

Mr. Cassidy: Why don't you talk to your brother about that?

Mr. Wildman: You don't see those Tory ads either. That's an advantage.

Mr. Reid: If we just had more Tory ads up there we'd probably get all the seats between us.

Mr. Cassidy: Did you know the CBC was founded by a Conservative government in Ottawa?

Mr. Reid: They must still be running it because it's in bad shape.

Mr. Wildman: It is too late for that.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk—well not at length, but just a little—about the television reception particularly. The gist of my letter to the Minister of Transportation and Communications was that some of the private broadcasters had tried to get together and deal with Bell Canada—I believe it was Bell—to rent space on their microwave towers. I don't pretend to understand the technology of how these systems work, but I understand that using these microwave towers you can link up computers, you can link up TV reception, radio reception and of course telephone reception.

They went to Bell and they tried to negotiate a deal to rent space on the existing towers, and the price that came back from Bell was just outrageous. There was no way that the people could afford to pay the rates that this consortium or this particular company would have to charge.

It seems to me that the government, through the Ministry of Northern Affairs and MTC, could use their good offices to negotiate with Bell, because certainly an individual company cannot get anywhere with Mother Bell. As a matter of fact, I think sometimes Bell tells both the federal and provincial governments what to do.

The minister's reply to me was there's already an existing microwave system, which I had already told him in the letter—it gives you an idea how closely they read the letters—but that if the government was to apply some pressure that space would be available at a reasonable price. There are private entrepreneurs who apparently are interested in providing multi-channel TV and improving the reception for those areas in northern On-

tario. As I say, if the minister doesn't know about it, I'll send him the information.

Which brings me to the other side of the coin and that is educational television. The government, after procrastinating and cutting off Sudbury and Thunder Bay from ETV, has finally gone ahead—they're putting in the transmitters and so on in those two places—except that my riding, the minister's riding, the member for Lake Nipigon's riding—

Mr. Martel: Nipissing.

Mr. Reid: —and Nipissing, a large part of northern Ontario, are still going to be without educational television.

I've made this speech before, but it was my understanding when we brought it in that educational television was to provide a service to those people who didn't have the benefits of, say, living in downtown Toronto, or downtown Burlington, or wherever it happens to be—it was to provide them with another tool in the outer areas of the province. And yet we in northern Ontario are the last ones to get the service. So I would hope that that would be a priority that the minister has.

I want to talk also about health services. I want to talk about unorganized communities.

I wanted to talk about NODC. I didn't hear the minister mention that NODC would be moving over to his ministry. I don't know if that's decided or not. It hasn't been? It should. Why loans for northern Ontario have to be approved down, again, in southern Ontario is beyond me. The process takes too long. They're virtually useless. You're either bankrupt or you're making enough money you don't need them, but we're employing a bunch of civil servants to keep them happy, I suppose.

We've got to do something about providing better health care, particularly dentists, in northern Ontario. You've heard me speak about this before, Mr. Speaker. We're all paying the same OHIP premiums and yet we don't have access to the kind of medical facilities that everybody in southern Ontario takes for granted. Myself and my friend from Lake Nipigon for years have been asking that the government provide a subsidy to people in northern Ontario who have to travel to see a doctor. If you live in Toronto, you don't have to go more than a few blocks to see a doctor. You pay the same OHIP.

Mr. Warner: Are you kidding? You have to go out on the nearest golf course.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Are you kidding? It is only the school teachers who are out there.

Mr. Reid: We pay the same rates. So I hope the minister will be looking at that.

The other thing is in regard to unorganized communities. Their biggest problem really is that they have no kind of official structure that can accept assistance from the government, either federal or provincial, because there's no one in the community to take responsibility and the concomitant accountability for any funds that might be made available. There have been ways of getting around these matters in the past, but we went through the isolated communities Act a few years ago and didn't satisfy anyone. We must find some kind of mechanism to give those people representation within their communities, so that someone there is responsible and can provide the leadership in those communities. As it is now they're relying pretty well on a service club perhaps, or some ad hoc committee to get a fire truck, which is needed in all these areas. Some formal mechanism has to be found to provide this kind of leadership and authority in these areas.

[8:45]

I'm going on at more length than I had intended, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to speak about the forest industry in northern Ontario. I realize that comes under the Ministry of Natural Resources, so I won't dwell on that. But I do want to talk about the tourist industry, because it's our third largest industry in northern Ontario and one that provides perhaps the largest potential for immediate jobs.

I want to outline for the edification of the House—not of the minister, because we've had correspondence on this—one way that I believe we could do something to improve tourism in northern Ontario and the availability of jobs. I'm not required to do so, I realize, Mr. Speaker, but I should say that perhaps I have a small conflict of interest in this matter as I'm involved financially in a tourist operation myself. However, I have been making similar speeches for a number of years, as the minister knows from his time as Minister of Natural Resources; I was constantly giving him heck for his lack of policy in regard to tourism and Crown land camping in northern Ontario.

The thesis is generally this: Right now, we are allowing tourists to enter the province of Ontario, particularly northern Ontario, and all they have to buy is a fishing licence for \$10.75. They can bring their camper-trailers, park them wherever they like; and they can bring their booze, their food and their fishing tackle. All they have to do is buy that fishing licence. They're not required to stay at a licensed tourist camp or a provincial park or at anything that's licensed by the Ministry

of Industry and Tourism. We call them pork-and-beaners.

Mr. Laughren: Tin-can tourists.

Mr. Reid: Tin-can tourists or pork-and-beaners, we're not getting anything out of these people financially in a revenue sense. Let's face it, that's the bottom line of tourism; you try to extract as many dollars out of that tourist as possible.

Mr. McClellan: Maybe they should go to the Maritimes this summer.

Mr. Reid: My proposal is that visitors to the province be required to stay in licensed tourist camps, licensed provincial parks—something licensed by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism. This would have all kinds of effects, I think. First of all, obviously it would create a demand for more tourist camps and more accommodation. It would perhaps require the hiring of guides in the summer so that students and some of the native population would be hired by these camps to provide these services for these people. It would allow the conservation officers to check these people much more easily. It would save us \$500,000 or better in garbage cleanup—and I don't say they're the only ones who leave their garbage in the bush.

My proposal has all kinds of benefits to the economy and job creation in northern Ontario, and I don't understand why, for so many years, we advertised to come fish and hunt in northern Ontario, which they do, and yet we extract very little in the way of revenue from them.

The minister, I'm sure, reads very avidly the Kenora Miner and News. They're not always as kind to him as the Dryden Observer. Incidentally, does the minister own part of that newspaper?

An hon. member: Part of it? All of it.

Mr. Reid: You can't read the Dryden Observer. You don't have to read it, because it's more like a pictorial magazine of the Minister of Northern Affairs doing all kinds of things.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That's good judgement.

Mr. Reid: That's why I say the minister must have a conflict there. He must own 75 per cent of it.

Mr. Laughren: Is it true they now call the minister the John Wayne of the north?

Hon. B. Stephenson: They will never call the hon. member that.

Mr. Reid: I understand it was the Mickey Rooney of northern Ontario, but that's neither here nor there.

Mr. S. Smith: Trigger, wasn't it?

Mr. Reid: In any case, there are all kinds of benefits to be had from that kind of an approach to our land in northern Ontario because the pressure on the game and fish has become so extreme that many of our lakes, as the minister knows, are fished out. The moose population seems to be fairly steady, but they've been driven back into the far regions by the pressure and we just don't have that kind of proper approach to conservation. It is better, I say to the minister, to find one tourist spending \$200 than to have 10 of them, these pork and beaners, each spending \$20, because the pressure on the resource is then not so extreme.

I was going to say something about Design for Development; we all know that it is out-moded. TEIGA has been working on that; I presume, from the Premier's statement, the minister is going to take that over.

I suggest that we don't need any more studies like that. What we need is well understood guidelines for the social and economic development of northern Ontario. What we need, if we are going to have a new town-site, based usually on a resource, or even an existing community—but let's talk about new development, like what might happen at Lake St. Joe.

What has to be understood by one and all is who is going to provide what facilities and who is going to pay for them. Where do the native people fit into these matters—and, incidentally, that is something that I found a little strange when I read through the bill. There is no reference to the native people in the ministry. I presume that means they are going to remain under Social and Community Services—no doubt at their own request; they know what they're getting into.

That strikes me as rather strange, to tell you the truth. Here we have a Ministry of Northern Affairs. We've got I don't know how many reserves in northern Ontario; I think I have 10 or 12 in my riding. And yet the Minister of Northern Affairs is not going to be responsible for the native population in that area. As I say, they probably were given the choice and they decided they would stay where they were. They know what they're doing.

But to get back, Mr. Speaker, what we need are well-understood guidelines. Who is going to provide the hard services? Who is going to provide the soft services? What is going to happen to these resource towns when the mine moves out or the forest industry has taken everything out and there is nothing left? What happens to these communities? Who is going to look after the people who are left there with their houses,

with their mortgages, with their schools to pay for, with their hospitals to pay for? What programs do we have to handle these matters?

Mr. S. Smith: Take care of Frank's two saplings.

Mr. Reid: We don't have any plans for the development of communities and we have no plans for the decline of resource communities. And all these studies we've done deal with everything else but the matters that are really important.

I have asked the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) on numerous occasions, "What are you going to do for, say, Atikokan?" Look what happened to Ignace.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Look what we have done already.

Mr. Reid: That's right, but if the mine goes—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We have to try to counteract the gloom and doom you advocate.

Mr. Reid: I wasn't gloom and doom. Do you know who those guys were? They were prominent members of the Conservative Party, that's who they were, but they got fired. They are down in the United States.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I heard it from the local provincial member.

Mr. Reid: Oh no, you never heard me talking gloom and doom.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I have it on tape.

Mr. Reid: Oh, I'd like to hear that some day.

I must give somebody credit—I know it is not to the minister's credit or we wouldn't have it; he'd have put it in Hudson. Last week, or actually Monday, the minister and I were in Atikokan to announce the construction of the 800-megawatt thermal plant in Atikokan. I must commend Hydro particularly for the excellent job they did—and I must compliment the government for having the good sense also to put that plant in Atikokan. But it seems to me that Hydro is almost a perfect example of what the government should be doing on a government scale.

Hydro seems to have a pretty clear-cut idea of who is going to provide the housing, at what expense, who is going to pay for it, what they require for the community and what they may pay for it. At least they thought of these things. As I say, these studies that have been ongoing in the Treasury for so many years never deal with these problems. I see that the Provincial Secretary

for Social Development is here with us. Who is going to pay for the schools that are needed? Who is going to pay for the hospitals? Who is going to pay for all these services when an industry moves into perhaps a small existing community or even into a new one? Who pays for these services? Do the people who work in the mine or in the forest industry pay for them through their taxes? Then when that industry is gone, they are still stuck with their mortgages.

Mrs. Campbell: That's the way they plan over there.

Mr. Reid: How do we do it? Ignace boomed. It used to be a CPR point on the railway. That's pretty well all that was there, that and gas stations. I think Ignace has more gas stations per capita than anywhere else in the world. It used to be in the minister's riding. Until I took over, nothing happened there. When it took off, when the population quadrupled in a matter of three years with Mattabi Mines, what did the government do to provide services for that community? They did nothing and the community went bankrupt.

All of a sudden, they had this influx of people. It went from approximately a population of 700 to 2,800, and yet the government provided no assistance to that community—hardly any—until it went bankrupt. Once it went bankrupt with all these officials of TEIGA sitting round like vultures watching it go bankrupt, then the government stepped in and said: "Now we are going to countersign every cheque that you spend and we are going to tell you what to do. Now we will give you a little assistance."

Where were they in providing the services, the housing, the sewers and water, hospitals, which we still don't have there, and even policing? We have had to fight tooth and nail for policing. What do all these thousands of civil servants do when they are writing these reports? What goes on in this ministry? What has it been doing? Where are the guidelines? Why don't we have a policy on these things? Are we going to get one or are we going to get another study? The government knows what has to be done. Why don't we do it?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We will.

Mrs. Campbell: With Northern Affairs?

Mr. Roy: Look at your track record.

Mr. Reid: We will? As for the track record, I don't know if the minister ever goes to the racetrack. I am told by a former

colleague of mine from southern Ontario who, once a year whether he needed it or not, would go out to the horse races. He told me once: "Pat, if you ever go, look at the form, the chart of the horse and the races he has run. If he has never won a race, don't bet on him." That's my concern about the minister. He hasn't won any races yet.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Five elections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Lost at horseshoes, too.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: How many seats have we got in northern Ontario now? Seven.

Mr. Reid: I hadn't intended to go on so long, but the minister was obviously enjoying my remarks so much, he obviously needs a great deal of direction. Actually, I am speaking not to him but to his deputy minister who is under the press gallery tonight. That is one of the bright lights as far as I am concerned in this new ministry.

Mr. Martel: You just got him fired.

Mr. Reid: This is the kiss of death, by the way. If we can attract people like that to the ministry—it has a couple already I'd like to see fired and I'll send the minister their names—if they were all of the calibre of the deputy minister, then I would have some hope for the ministry.

I'd like to ask the minister a couple of questions before I do sit down. Has he fixed up The Mining Act, that amendment or that interpretation yet?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We are working on that.

Mr. Reid: He is working on it? It would be really nice if before the end of this session was over the minister could stand in his place and make a statement on some of the ills that his ministry has rectified in northern Ontario. One of the simplest would be this interpretation of The Mining Tax Act.

[9:00]

This is how—I don't understand how these people can ask us for their confidence when they can mess things up the way they have. Let me explain to you, Mr. Speaker, about this interpretation of The Mining Tax Act. Basically, what it says is that if a company makes a contribution to the community for a recreation centre, or a hospital, or any kind of social capital—I hope you're listening, Margaret—social capital, then that contribution is not going to be interpreted as a taxable deduction from the income of the company.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The 15/65 rule explains that cost.

Mr. Reid: You mean you've straightened it out?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I spent all evening on that.

Mr. Reid: Could we make him Minister of Northern Affairs, please? That minister hasn't done a damn thing for us and here just in the space of tonight the Minister of Natural Resources has got that cleared up.

Mr. Martel: You want both jobs, Frank?

Hon. F. S. Miller: 15/65 cleared up the situation.

Mr. Reid: Pardon? It is cleared up, or isn't it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I'll show it to you.

Mr. Reid: No, no. Just nod your head, yes or no.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Reid: Is it cleared up or not? It isn't? Well, this is just unbelievable. We're into July now. When did that interpretation come out? January or February, I think; February. Yet the government by a simple regulation, which they're very fond of making, could have said that the interpretation by the mining assessor is incorrect, or his interpretation is fine, but we're amending it by regulation to allow that as a deduction, because the government doesn't provide those services in northern Ontario to the extent it should. If the companies are discouraged, which they were by that interpretation of the Act, then where are we going to get those services from?

I don't believe, as perhaps my friends here do, that the government should provide all the services in these communities, or anywhere else. That's one of the benefits of living in northern Ontario, especially a place like Atikokan or Ignace, where the people get together and say, "We want to do this and we'll do it with our own sweat and blood—and if the government wants to give us a little contribution that's fine, but we're going to do it on our own anyway." But don't discourage that, and that's what you're doing. It's no big thing to remedy that situation.

I said at the outset that we would support the bill. We're optimistic. We're hopeful that perhaps the minister will actually be able to do something in regard to northern Ontario. One of the hopeful signs is that responsibility for many of the functions that have been performed by other ministries of the Crown—particularly TEIGA—will be taken away from them. Unfortunately, we will probably get a lot of the same people.

Mrs. Campbell: We always do.

Mr. Reid: That bothers me. But if we could perhaps put them back in northern Ontario, where they're in that kind of setting, perhaps then we'll get that proper perspective and balance renewed, and that we in fact will see progress in Northern Ontario.

Mr. Roy: Way to go, Pat.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Sudbury East.

Mr. B. Newman: Be easy on him, now.

Mr. Eakins: Brace yourself.

Mr. Martel: I have a few moments, let's put it that way.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Should I stay?

Mr. Martel: You should stay. I'm going to quote a few editorials for you, by the way. Some you'll really enjoy.

Mr. Cassidy: That's right.

Mr. Martel: I'm particularly happy to speak to this bill, particularly in view of the comments made by the fellow who occupies that seat over there during the election. Some call him the Premier (Mr. Davis). He set the stage, you know, for this last election. He set it the Monday night before he called it in one of the most vicious attacks on the two leaders on this side of the House that in my 10 years I've ever heard.

Mr. Warner: Right on!

Mr. Martel: And he carried it into the campaign up to Thunder Bay on the Ministry of Northern Affairs. I have Jonathan Manthorpe's article on what dirty little Bill had to say that day in Thunder Bay.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member knows he should refer to the Premier by his title.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I kind of have the same feeling about the Premier as he demonstrated the Monday night before he called the election and the way he conducted himself throughout the election campaign.

Mr. Warner: Disgusting.

Mr. Martel: I want to tell the House it was dismal, and all of the press said it was dismal. He went to Thunder Bay, and here it is called "Davis's Outburst Hurts His Cause." "Davis's Performance Was Unworthy of Him." But he had the audacity to tell the people in Thunder Bay that the New Democratic Party in fact was going to oppose the bill. That was after the election was called. But he didn't bother to check with the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes), when in fact I as the critic had indicated to the minister we in fact were going to support the bill. In fact I have some of the statements I made during the debate in the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Your leader's first comments.

Mr. Martel: I happen to be the critic and I happened to say—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Who is the leader over there and what were his comments?

Mr. Martel: "I intend to give Northern Affairs some teeth, Mr. Minister."

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You are changing your leader so it is all right.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Elie for leader.

Mr. Martel: "I announce it now, if we ever get to it, contrary to what your colleague has said, I am going to support the bill"; you see

The Premier went to Thunder Bay and he shot his face off. But he didn't bother to look at what I as the critic had said during the Housing estimates. That was just one of the incidents that the Premier indulged in—the type of campaign he conducted throughout the entire 37 days of that campaign and, in fact, leading up to it. It was a despicable exhibition, and he didn't gain any stature. He has always wanted to go down in the history books as a great parliamentarian. I want to tell the House, any possibility he had went out with the last campaign. His chances for the federal thing just died with the last campaign. Now the knives are out. I suggest he watch some of his colleagues.

Mr. Peterson: You are not very trusting.

Mr. Martel: Not very.

Mr. Peterson: He likes you.

Mr. Martel: Yes, I know.

My friend, the minister responsible, was in Sudbury in February and he had some kind comments too about what we were going to do with the bill. He said, "Fair-minded persons would recognize that the government has made progress in coping with northern problems." I want to know where. "Bernier charged that the NDP breed on dissatisfaction and discontent to foster their socialist philosophy."

An hon. member: Right on.

Mr. Martel: I want to tell the minister he should look at his track record when he was opposing an inquiry into the Elliot Lake situation, which he for years defended. He and his friends in that ministry.

Mr. Laughren: That's right. You covered up.

Mr. Martel: Covered up.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, on a point on order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: You can't deny it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: At no time as Minister of Natural Resources did I oppose any efforts to clean up the situation in Elliot Lake as it related to silicosis. It was myself, ahead of any contribution from the opposition—

Mr. Laughren: After 10 years.

Mr. Warner: It is called cover up.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —who established the royal commission under Professor Hamm that brought in the recommendations in respect of that situation. I want to make the record very clear.

Mr. Laughren: Nonsense. How come we found the records in your files?

Mr. Germa: We had to raid your files.

Mr. Laughren: We had to get them out of your files.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member direct his remarks through the Chair?

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you that the battle surrounding improvements for the workers in the mining industry were started when—I know that the first question I raised in this Legislature was directed at the Minister of Mines, involving tipoffs of investigations, and it took seven years to get that cleared up, and you were involved in that.

Mr. Warner: Still continuing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member speak through the Chair, please?

Mr. Martel: Now he goes to Sudbury and says we breed on it. Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister, the track record in forestry is great too. The professional foresters have had to really come out in the open to make the government respond to the need in the forest industry. And you defended that for years too. Don't tell us about breeding discontent. You created it. You were minister. You had an opportunity to do something about it and you did nothing.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We will. We will.

Mr. Martel: In fact it is so bad that my friend, the present minister, in a letter before the Premier's announcement with respect to Algonquin Park—I wrote him and asked, "How many trees have you planted in Algonquin Park seeing as you logged 135,000 cunits? Was it tree for tree?" He wrote back and said, "You don't understand, Elie, how these things are done. We don't plant a tree for a tree. There's natural reforestation, the whole business."

And the charter, two for one. I didn't understand in February and March. I'm being chastised. The first letter from the old minister, the second one from the follow-up, both telling me I don't understand anything

about reforestation. Then the Premier makes his great announcement in the charter: two for one. But we don't understand.

When we are questioning, "Are you putting back 135,000 cunits of trees in Algonquin Park to compensate for the ones you remove?" we don't understand. It's not done that way. And then Billy the Kid says, "We'll plant two for one."

Mr. Roy: It is a surprise to them as well.

Mr. Martel: I want to tell the minister his track record has been less than enviable. It's interesting. The minister quoted editorials and my friend from Rainy River hit the nail right on the head with respect to the location of both the new offices. The one in Sault Ste. Marie makes it farther for people in Nipissing and all along that corridor to go to Sault Ste. Marie than it is for them to come to Toronto.

Mr. McClellan: What a brilliant stroke.

Mr. Martel: That's a brilliant stroke. It's 300 miles roughly from North Bay to Sault Ste. Marie. It's what—? 200 from North Bay to Toronto?

Mr. Bolan: Two hundred and twenty.

Mr. Warner: Two hundred and twenty-five.

Mr. Martel: Two hundred and twenty. So it's easier to get to Toronto and there's better transportation. But that's okay. We know what it's all about.

But there is also a second newspaper in Sudbury and they wrote an editorial after the minister's visit to Sudbury. Let me tell you what it said: "Frankly, Leo, you might as well take your toy ministry and put it" and then there are four dots. I am going to read the editorial. The minister quoted at great length the editorials of other newspapers.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: All in support.

Mr. Martel: "I suppose one should make an effort not to be rude—"

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is not your editorial.

Mr. Martel: No, it is not my editorial. It is written by a man by the name of Michael Atkins.

An hon. member: He's a Liberal.

An hon. member: He's a Tory.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Elie wrote it for him.

Mr. Martel: He said, "I suppose one should make an effort not to be rude, in that if one is rude one suffers more than one is criticizing. It is difficult to be restrained when it comes to Leo Bernier and his toy ministry, the Ministry of Northern Affairs."

"It is edifying to note that the most noteworthy accomplishment of the ministry thus

far is to announce the location of its twin head offices in Kenora and Sault Ste. Marie. Yes, that's no joke. The difficulty about complaining too bitterly about the absurd location of the ministry is to credit the ministry with too much importance.

"I am still of the opinion that the Ministry of Northern Affairs is nothing more than political claptrap, a fraud and an embarrassing waste of time and money. We have more to worry about than a few transplanted Queen's Park bureaucrats, one of whom no doubt will spend half his time in twin Otters getting to his official offices in the western reaches of Leo's riding. The Tory logic is not difficult to understand."—

Mr. Laughren: It's a good editorial.

Mr. Martel: "The NDP has been critical of the Northern Affairs ministry. The NDP holds all the seats in Sudbury and Thunder Bay . . . therefore, we'll put our little showpiece where the NDP is not."

Mr. Laughren: The Globe and Mail should write this editorial. Such insight.

Mr. Martel: " . . . Nothing serious . . . No doubt we should be expected to be thankful at least. Kenora and Sault Ste. Marie get a few more bureaucrats even if they are redundant."

"Leo, in your silly little press release you claimed the offices were established to provide better access for northerners. Leo, is it that you can't count? Is it that there are no adding machines for your ministry? Can you not read transportation routes? Or were you and your advisers all chewing gum at the same time?"

[9:15]

"It is an unassailable fact that Sudbury and Thunder Bay are accessible to more northerners than any other location in the north. You say in your press release that Kenora is 1,250 miles from Toronto. So what? How far is Moose Jaw? Have you flipped out? Have you been eating too many fish up in your neck of the woods? Or have you been sniffing that wild rice up Kenora way?"

Mr. Warner: You'll turn into a thermometer.

Mr. Germa: Suffering hallucinations?

Mr. Martel: I could go on with the editorial. It just gets worse in terms of how it is—

Mr. Roy: No. Don't go on.

Mr. Martel: The member for Ottawa East doesn't want me to go on. Well, seeing as he insists, I'll go on.

Mr. Warner: The press gallery wants you to go on, Elie.

Mr. Martel: Seeing as he puts it that way, I'll do it.

"What is upsetting is that you are playing us for fools. You're wasting taxpayers' money. You are gurgling up such stupid rationales, even the most meek and mild of us are annoyed. I'd like to say, pick up your ministry and go home, but there's nothing to turf out. While you're flitting about like a dancing bear, pitching the line on northern alienation, Kingston gets the promises of hundreds of new jobs, Oshawa the same, Whitby gets a multi-million dollar LCBO investment, and we watch ads stating we are our own liquor control board.

"Leo, look in the mirror; do the honourable thing: resign."

Mr. Warner: Resign.

Mr. Roy: You should frame that one, Leo

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You wish I had done that before June 9. You would have loved to have got rid of me before June 9.

Mr. Martel: "It's springtime—time to open up the cottage and go for a boatripe and look at the birdies. On special days you could drop into the old northern affairs office in Kenora and pick up the business season's charts. But just get out of politics; it's bad for all of us."

Mr. Martel: The minister quoted editorials extensively but in the Sudbury region and in many other regions of the north they don't look so kindly on his ministry, and I must say too that his track record gives us reason to believe it will be a disaster.

I well recall, Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure you do, the last clambake; it was led by the then Premier, the member for London North, the Hon. John Robarts. They went to Timmins and Sudbury and, I believe, to Thunder Bay; and they promised us everything, contrary to what the minister said tonight. In fact, the new Premier went to Parry Sound—and my friend, the member for Parry Sound, is here—and he promised a railway from Parry Sound to North Bay in the fall of 1971.

Mr. Laughren: A railway?

Mr. Warner: Would he be the engineer? Where is that railway? Whatever happened to it?

Mr. Martel: The man who brought in the northern affairs offices in those days was the one who fought the idea for us when he was the near-Premier.

Mr. Warner: It went off track, eh?

Mr. Martel: Remember the near-Premier? During the shenanigans on the northern affairs offices then, he made a great variety

of promises. He promised a railway from North Bay to Parry Sound to help the development of northern Ontario.

Mr. Roy: Elie, we were all promised a railway. Remember Krauss-Maffei?

Mr. Martel: Right. We had one in Toronto too.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Oh, no.

Mr. Martel: But when the air had cleared and the smoke had settled down in 1969, what we had was 25 information offices and a near-Premier. Remember Allan of Lawrence? If only the ballot machine hadn't gone wrong, he might have been the Premier. The people from northern Ontario had to catch the train back home and William Davis became Premier. It was that close.

As I say, when the smoke settled we had 25 northern affairs offices, and I want to quote from those debates that brought them in. I want to compare them to the Premier's statements when he made his great announcement on February 3, I guess it was, and then on April 7. It's intriguing to read the statements from the Premier and the near-Premier. The near-Premier, on page 3474 of Hansard of June 1970, spoke of the unique problems of northern Ontario. Unique. Nothing unique about our problems. It's just that they've been ignored.

Hon. Mr. Norton: By Elie Martel.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Well, you're up there.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Poor representation, that's why.

Mr. Martel: The near-Premier—the Hon. Allan Lawrence—says: "Those problems crystallize down to two major aspects—first of all, the feeling that in a lot of ways the province was reacting to crises in the north, rather than planning to avert the future crises that may come along." And also there was a feeling that we were remote from Queen's Park and that the problems were unique problems that the people in northern Ontario had to work against.

Now, what does the Premier say on February 3? Exactly the same. Seven years later, the Premier says—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: What did the people say on June 9?

Mr. Martel: Well, they didn't give you a majority.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In northern Ontario they did.

Mr. Martel: No. The Liberals gave you that. The Liberals flew that fellow in from Toronto, 72 years of age, and he got seven

per cent of the vote in Timiskaming. Seven per cent on the night of the election.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Oh, big excuses. We got the majority in northern Ontario. Admit it.

Mr. Laughren: Nice trade off.

Mr. Wiseman: Next time it will be you, Elie.

Mr. Martel: Yes, you're right.

Mr. Warner: Neat deal.

Mr. Martel: Yes, a neat deal. We know about it in Timmins too. It's happened every election federally and provincially.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Who lost in northern Ontario?

Mr. Martel: Well, now, let's see. The Premier says: "Recognizing the great distances that exist between communities in northern Ontario, it is inevitable that the people have felt on occasion that the government in Queen's Park has been distant from them." That's exactly what Allan Lawrence said in 1970.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We are consistent.

Mr. Deans: Consistently wrong, but consistent.

Mr. Martel: It only took them seven more years to do something about it.

I could go on. They talk about unique problems. The Premier talks about unique problems. The near-Premier talked about distance and then Allan Lawrence on page 3475 went on to say: "there will be a separate department of northern affairs, hopefully . . . with headquarters perhaps in the north . . ."

Well, my oh my, seven years later we have headquarters so far north, I thought you were going to move to Inuvik.

Mr. B. Newman: They were thinking of it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Be careful. Remember what you said about Red Lake.

Mr. Martel: I remember the Red Lake statement.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Careful.

Mr. Martel: I remember the Red Lake statement.

Mr. Lane: You won't get to be leader if you don't watch your statements.

Mr. Martel: But seven years later we have two offices, one in Kenora and one in Sault Ste. Marie, which are more isolated, at least in terms of getting there by a variety of transportation methods, than is Toronto. More difficult. Yes, more difficult.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You don't want us in Sudbury.

Mr. Martel: The city of Sudbury representatives asked me if I would ask the Minister of Northern Affairs to put an office in Sudbury. I said? No thanks. I said I want the minister to do as he did with the other aspect when he moved the mines section out of Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: This is not true.

Mr. Martel: What do you mean?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The mining section is still in Sudbury.

Mr. Martel: The minister moved a great section of his ministry from Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie a number of years ago.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The mines division is still in Sudbury.

Mr. Martel: The regional office. I wouldn't ask the minister then to keep it there and I certainly wouldn't ask him to put part of his ministry—I categorically refuse.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, please.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Your point of order.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member for Sudbury knows full well—

Mr. Warner: Are you going to resign? Tell us now.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —that in the reorganization of the Ministry of Natural Resources that the mines division of that particular district remained and still remains in Sudbury, not in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Martel: And the minister moved his regional office with what's his name—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You mislead the House.

Mr. Martel: —who was head of mines, went over to—

Hon. B. Stephenson: Tell the truth, Elie.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You have got to know.

Mr. Martel: Who is talking about the truth? That isn't the Minister of Labour talking about the truth. Oh, that's a novelty. Boy, that's a novelty.

Mr. Lane: You wouldn't know it if you saw it.

Mr. Martel: I remember the three questions I raised with her on three consecutive days about the hospitals, and not once did I get the facts.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Oh, yes, you did.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Oh, come on, Elie.

An hon. member: Elie has a long memory.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is no longer than mine is.

Mr. Martel: The near-Premier also said, on page 3475 in those days in 1969-1970

that that ministry would be a co-ordinating ministry. The Premier this year says it is a co-ordinating ministry. It's the same garbage. They talked about transportation problems when Lawrence brought the bill through the House. The Premier in his statement talked about transportation problems. The minister responsible in 1970 on page 3475 spoke about highways and problems. The Premier in his statement talked about highways and problems seven years later. Do you wonder why we're cynical?

Hon. Mr. Norton: You were born that way.

Mr. Martel: We heard the exact statements that were made by the Premier in 1970 seven years before he made them when they were made by Allan Lawrence. When the smoke cleared and all was said and done in 1970, we had 25 information officers and nothing else. Does the government expect us, based on its track record, the record and the statements of the former minister responsible for mines and northern affairs, to believe that it's serious? I'm going to talk about the bill to show why it's not serious. It really isn't.

Mr. Laughren: Would you give this minister real power?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: I'm going to try to give him real power. I presume he's going to say no.

Mr. Laughren: How about an amendment?

Mr. Martel: I want to ask the minister a couple of questions. Why do young people leave northern Ontario? What jobs are there for women in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are the Premier now.

Mr. Laughren: Answer these questions.

Mr. Martel: How do you get any services into the unorganized townships?

Mr. Lane: You guys don't want any.

Mr. Martel: Why don't you crawl back in your hole? If you've got nothing to contribute, then go out in the hall.

Mr. Lane: You don't want improvements. You are afraid the ministry will work and you will lose votes on it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I would like to suggest to the member for Algoma-Manitoulin that he does not have the floor. Will the member for Sudbury East please continue?

Mr. Martel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your assistance.

Hon. B. Stephenson: It was sorely needed.

Mr. Martel: I want to ask the minister a number of other questions. Why are one-industry towns allowed to remain so vulnerable?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Which ones?

Mr. Martel: What has the government done to prevent ghost towns?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Where are the ghost towns?

Mr. Martel: Blind River, where there isn't an industry left and the government has had years to do something about it.

Mr. Warner: That is a start.

Mr. Germa: What is left in Cobalt?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Blind River is not a ghost town.

Mr. Martel: How do you get adequate tax returns to the dormitory communities? The minister should be able to answer that one. How do you get adequate tax dollars back to the dormitory communities, those communities which provide the homes for the workers who work in the pulp and paper industry? None of those six questions—and they're the most important problems to northerners—is answered in the bill. The minister hasn't a thing in the bill to overcome one of those problems. I'll detail it in a few moments.

I happen to believe that the bill doesn't speak to the problems of northern Ontario. I'm sorry, but we're going to move the amendment. I must say that I gave them to the House leader this afternoon to give to the minister, as I did to my friend, the House leader for the Liberal Party. In fact, I attempted to get the amendments to the minister very early so that he'd have an opportunity to look at them. I apologize that they haven't been passed on to him but I made an effort to make sure.

I happened to get my hands on a document—I won't tell the minister how—prepared for the ministry.

Mr. B. Newman: In a brown bag.

Mr. Martel: These brown envelopes even in the new ministry manage to get out.

There was an interesting document prepared for the ministry by a planner. It says: "Create a ministry to solve a problem? Such is the popular myth which can be put to a rigorous test in the case of the newly created Ministry of Northern Affairs in Ontario. The news has been received with utter cynicism in some quarters and benign indifference by most, including the northerners." That's from a planner from northern Ontario.

Mr. Laughren: Because of the minister.

[9:30]

Mr. Martel: All these brown bags. You are going to have to get the gendarmes in there already to make sure that these aren't slipped out.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: I have got a friend over there in your ministry.

Hon. B. Stephenson: The only one you have got.

Mr. Martel: Well, that's better than you. I have got one friend. Can you claim that?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Oh, yes.

Mr. Martel: Not around here, you can't.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Not over there.

Mr. Martel: Not even on your own side, except young Mr. Grossman, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick. You and he became fast friends over the hospital crisis, I understand.

An hon. member: Very close.

Mr. Martel: Yes; very, very close.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Got no friends in Red Lake?

Mr. Martel: You are right. That's why I am not going up there.

An hon. member: They say they couldn't separate them.

Mr. Martel: Well, you know, in this paper which was prepared for the ministry, I am going to quote about six different parts which tell you that if your role is simply co-ordinating, get out of the business. If it's simply to resolve the odd problem, get out of the business because you are not going to do it.

Let me tell you what he says as to why the south emerged and the north remained stagnant: "The emergence of the dynamic south was assisted by the movements of principal factors of production—which are capital, labour, entrepreneurialship and raw materials from the north. Historically, the secular trend in the integral terms of trade has been more favourable to the south because the manufactured goods produced in the south have grown progressively more expensive than the traditional exports of the north, vis-à-vis minerals and forest products." And you aren't going to change it. That's the unfortunate part.

This paper also goes on to talk about not only why the south was expanded and why the ministry, if it is to solve problems, is going to be a total failure, but it also talks about the "one-industry syndrome." Again I say to the minister—it's a problem that isn't even tackled in the bill.

"The central problem of the north is the one-industry syndrome. The settlements are

devoid of diversified economic structure and are subject to wild fluctuations determined by the national and international demand structure for the resources. The perennial problem of migration by the young and the venture-some continues unabated. The vast economic landscape has been marred by a single urban industrial matrix which exhibits self-sustaining dynamism. Diversity or die must be the guiding motto for the operation of the ministry."

You have nothing in your bill which is going to help you to develop the north; nothing.

I will go on, Mr. Speaker, and in it is one of the key statements of this planner's position paper: First, the utilization of wealth generated in the north for northern development must occur. Second, a concerted effort to examine location in the north whenever investment decisions are made at the provincial level. Unless the province confronts this critical issue and resolves it in favour of the north, the creation of the ministry will only resolve into a legitimatization of another fiefdom to oversee a vast wasteland."

Get this: "Attitudes and behaviour associated with the conception of the north as a large productive cow surviving on pulp, pollution and platitudes, with a teat for every southerner who can milk it at will, must give place to shared wealth and mutual respect."

That isn't in your bill and there is nothing in your bill that's going to alter it one jot—not a jot. The minister says it is more than a co-ordinating ministry; the Premier says it's a co-ordinating ministry. I don't know who to believe.

An hon. member: I do.

Mr. Martel: I don't know who to believe.

An hon. member: Don't believe either of them.

Mr. Martel: Now, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. member: In conclusion?

Mr. Martel: No, I am sorry. I hate to disillusion you. I am going to be around for a little while yet.

An hon. member: That may be just as well.

Mr. Martel: It says, "The main thrust of the strategy for the north must reject the implicit policy of do something everywhere."

My friend, the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, spoke too. He said, "Sometimes you New Democrats oppose things." That's right, we opposed Maple Mountain—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Point of order.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The hon. member has left the impression that this document was originated in my ministry by one of the planners in my ministry.

Mr. Martel: No, I didn't say that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That's the impression I was left with.

That's not entirely correct. It is a letter that was well circulated from a planner in the Sudbury area, as I understand it.

Mr. Martel: No, I didn't say that. It was—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You referred to it as a leak from my ministry.

Mr. Martel: No, no, with the greatest respect, Mr. Minister. I did not say that originated with one of your planners. I said I got it out of your ministry; I didn't say it was one of your planners. I said it was a planner from the north. You check the record, okay?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: From Sudbury.

Mr. Martel: I know it's from Sudbury. I didn't get it there.

Mr. McClellan: Is that in the north, Leo? Did you know that was up north?

Mr. Lane: One of the great NDP.

Mr. Martel: Well, let me go back to "do something everywhere."

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It's dishonest.

An hon. member: Say that out loud, Leo.

Mr. Martel: Maple Mountain. Remember Maple Mountain, and the people in northern Ontario? Some of them would have bought it, because they thought it meant a few jobs. You don't know what the word means.

Mr. Mackenzie: Fairness, Elie. He doesn't know what it means.

Mr. Laughren: That's the tragedy.

Mr. Martel: Getting back to my point, Mr. Speaker—"do something everywhere." That isn't going to develop the north, to throw a Maple Mountain in now and then, without any planning, without any basis, to mislead the people into believing something is going to happen. They're desperate—the government makes a mockery of the people in the north when it does that sort of thing. And, "do something everywhere." Well, this planner says that's nonsense, the minister knows it and I know it.

"The primary role should be that of advocating the need and desirability of northern development among the southern establishment. That's one thing that you have to do.

"The secondary role should be one of establishing a coherent construct which will provide guidelines for other ministries in

organizing their activities in the north. The ministry should specifically avoid getting into the motherhood activity of co-ordination and should not end up duplicating the functions of other ministries."

That's part of what is going to happen, and that you can't do. But, as I stand here, that's what it will be—a co-ordinating ministry, duplicating the efforts of other ministries.

Because you know, with 120 staff—no disrespect to their abilities—the minister is going to do with 120, what the 25, 26 or 27 main ministries couldn't plan? Nonsense. The minister doesn't even have the staff.

We haven't been enthusiastic about the ministry, and with good reason. As I said earlier, we have seen the former ministry evolve and go to pot.

Mr. Lane: There wasn't any former ministry.

Mr. Martel: Well, there certainly was. I was here.

Mr. Lane: This is the first minister of northern Ontario. There wasn't any former minister.

Mr. Laughren: He didn't get re-elected?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect, there was a Ministry of Northern Affairs—

Mr. Lane: Mines and Northern Affairs.

Mr. Martel:—and if the member from Manitoulin wants, I will send him the Hansard debate and the promises made by Allan Lawrence on what it was going to be.

Mr. Lane: It was a provincial ministry—

Mr. Martel: Ah, claptrap.

Mr. Lane: It's not claptrap, it's true. You don't like the truth.

Mr. Martel: I don't like the truth! There was a ministry called—

Mr. Lane: You wouldn't know the truth if you met it, as a matter of fact.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: Would you ask him to withdraw?

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: You know, the guru of grunts has just made his contribution for this session.

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: The rumours of his death were greatly exaggerated.

Mr. Martel: He is still alive.

Mr. Laughren: Is Ed Havrot alive and living in John Lane?

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: In fact, I want to talk about the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: Yes, speaking to the principle of the bill.

Hon. B. Stephenson: You haven't been on it all night.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I don't believe the member for Algoma-Manitoulin is mentioned in the bill.

Mr. Martel: He's not. But you see, Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the member from Algoma was the one who pushed to get this bill through. And he used as an example the two northern bills from Manitoba and Saskatchewan as the basis for his argument, little realizing that in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, in that part which is covered by a Ministry of Northern Affairs, there's something like a total of 18,000 people in one province and 26,000 in the other province and they're both above the 53rd parallel, which means that they're dealing primarily with native people, in unorganized townships.

Mr. Lane: Totally wrong.

Mr. Martel: I have it here. Don't tell me I'm totally wrong. I have it before me.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Thompson, Manitoba.

Mr. Martel: No it's not. It's not covered. You see? You should get your facts straight.

An hon. member: If Leo saw the facts he'd cover them up.

Mr. Martel: When you go around suggesting that you do what you do in Manitoba, we're going to move some amendments, because in the bill—in this little document that's now in the minister's name—he provides for the establishment of a ministry and a minister—and the Premier told him to spend half his time in northern Ontario—and it appoints a deputy minister and a couple of assistant deputy ministers. It provides a great seal. It gives Campbell control, under section 7 of the bill, of that particular ministry, and by regulation many things are going to happen.

That's the bill—except for one thing. It provides for the greatest potential for pork-barrelling I've ever read in a bill. Listen to what section 11 says: "Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the minister may establish advisory committees to the minister and subcommittees thereto, appoint chairmen and members of such subcommittees and committees, and fix the remuneration and ex-

penses of the chairmen and members of such committees and sub-committees."

Mr. Warner: I wonder who will pay.

Mr. Martel: What's your campaign manager's name?

An hon. member: He's all right.

Mr. Martel: Well, I want to tell you, we're going to move to delete section 11.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Oh, no, Elie.

Mr. Martel: Yes, we're going to move to delete section 11, because that just gives the minister too much power.

Mr. McClellan: Too much slush.

Mr. Martel: Well, I didn't want to say slush. I didn't want to be unkind. But I want to tell the minister what we will have—if he accepts the amendments. Mr. Minister, we want to move in a couple of directions in your bill. We'll move the amendments—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Two directions at the same time? Typical of you, Elie.

Mr. Martel: Well, for you, Mr. Minister, direction doesn't seem to matter.

An hon. member: It's all downhill.

Mr. Martel: Because your bill fails to deal with unorganized townships; and because your bill fails to spell out what services the minister is responsible for and where; and because your bill doesn't deal with economic development; and because your bill fails to deal with providing taxes to the dormitory communities; and because your bill fails to prevent ghost towns—we're going to beef it up.

We're going to move in the bill to, what I want to call, a community council, which will be the elected representatives in unorganized townships. It's done under the Saskatchewan and the Manitoba bills. And these democratically elected people—democratically elected, not appointed—

Mr. McClellan: Hard to understand, isn't it?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Turned down, turned down.

Mr. Warner: It is not nice to have elected people, is it?

Mr. Martel: Well, you'll probably turn it down. I have no doubt you'll turn it down.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It was turned down in 120.

Mr. Martel: Well, 120—which? Oh, 102—[9:45]

Mr. Martel: In 102. I didn't say we'd incorporate the towns. They are unorganized. It was your government that withdrew the bill and let it die on the order paper.

Mr. Laughren: It was this minister.

Mr. Martel: It was the former minister. We are going to move an amendment to create, in the unorganized communities, community councils, democratically elected, who will be able to receive grants and funding to provide the amenities which the unorganized communities presently don't enjoy.

They can't even get a street light, as the minister knows, because there is no way of getting money into them legally. The only thing they have got is local roads boards, and I think they can get a few recreational facilities if they go through a school board.

Mr. Warner: Begging.

Mr. Martel: But beyond that, it is near impossible. We are going to move it. And I hope you accept it then, because we are going to give you all the unorganized communities, Leo—lock, stock and barrel. We are going to give you something to do. And we are going to move, through a series of definitions, what services you should provide funding for.

Let me list them. We believe you should provide funding for water supply, garbage and waste disposal, local roads, local drains, fire and police protection. Fire and police protection—my colleague will tell you that the only thing this government has done is provide smoke detectors for fire protection in the unorganized townships.

Hon. Mr. Norton: They are very effective.

Mr. Martel: Yes, I know they are very effective—to get you out of the house. You have nothing to save your house, mind you.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Save your skin.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, we want to provide street lighting, planning, recreational facilities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Your point of order.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I can't allow the hon. member to mislead the House with some of his comments.

Mr. Martel: No, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He is misleading the House because he is saying that we do not assist in the unorganized communities with fire protection. Under the isolated communities assistance program we have been giving direct assistance to the unorganized communities for the purchase of fire trucks, portable pumps—all those things that relate to fire protection—over and above the assistance for the purchase of fire detectors.

Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: You are being very sensitive, you know.

Mr. Lane: You are really off track, Elie.

Mr. Deans: That is a point of view.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I do not believe that is a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is misleading the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I believe it is becoming more of a discussion than a point of order. Would the hon. member for Sudbury East continue?

Mr. Martel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your indulgence. What the minister is talking about is a couple of pilot projects. They bought firefighting equipment in my colleague's, the member for—

Mr. Reid: And Nestor Falls.

Mr. Martel: Two of them. Two of them for the north, I believe, is the sum total.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I will send you a list.

Mr. Martel: Yes, you might. You might send a tank while you are at it to Awrey township, to Alban, to Wanup, to Estaire, all in my riding, while you are sending out these fire trucks in the list. Would you send four there? I'll put my order in now.

Hon. W. Newman: Why don't you sit down?

Mr. Roy: He wants them yellow, not red.

Mr. Martel: It doesn't matter what colour as long as it puts some water on the house, so that it doesn't happen in Awrey like last summer where the Natural Resources people came in and watched the house burn, and sprayed the trees so they wouldn't catch on fire. But the house burned to the ground in Awrey township.

Mr. Roy: Leo does that all the time.

Mr. Martel: That is the type of protection you are talking about, is it, Leo? Well that happened in Awrey. But that's okay.

Mr. Laughren: In Gogama they used the Bill Newman statute.

Mr. Martel: Right. So, Mr. Speaker, we are going to move this list of services which Tom Campbell, with the assistance of the minister—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you going to suggest he also be fire chief of the north?

Mr. Martel: Well, you might find a job that he is good at.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Elie for fire chief.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: Make him the big kahuna for the north.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You can be the mascot.

Mr. Martel: He can be the chief firefighter.

Mr. Deans: What is the matter with fire chiefs?

Mr. Martel: When my friend over here asks you questions about your ministry, you can't answer. Don't contribute here. You don't know what you are talking about.

Hon. Mr. Norton: He hasn't asked me lately—I have been waiting. Sparky from Sudbury is speaking—come on, Sparky.

An hon. member: You have all the answers.

Mr. Martel: Well, back to the bill, Mr. Speaker. Would you get them in order?
Interjections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would suggest that the member direct his remarks through the Chair.

Mr. Martel: I'm looking directly at you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Breithaupt: But you are listening over there.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, not only are we going to move the community councils and not only are we going to attempt to move in the bill the services and the funding which the government can provide, we are going to move a number—

Hon. Mr. Norton: And the direction of the hoses.

Mr. Martel: The what?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The direction of the hoses.

Mr. Martel: Well, we could use hoses. We are tired of just smoke bombs.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That should be included in the legislation for sure—the direction of the hoses.

Mr. Martel: We don't want smoke bombs. We want hoses.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are going to get it.

Mr. Martel: I'd say something else but I won't—with respect to hoses.

We also in the bill want to move that the ministry would, in fact, have some responsibility for ensuring the total delivery of health services and communications in northern Ontario. My friend, the member for Rainy River, spoke to that earlier so I won't enlarge upon it, save to say that if one looks at the shortage of doctors, the shortage of dentists, surely this is a great role for the new ministry to guarantee—and I'm sure the member for Algoma-Manitoulin is going to

support the amendments that we are going to introduce because obviously he is with us.

We are also going to provide three economic moves.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Now listen, what do you know about economics?

Mr. Martel: I don't. I'm like the minister for Community and Social Services. He doesn't know anything about social services and yet he is the minister. That's probably the best thing that happened to the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I don't know anything about economics either—I don't pretend to make economic suggestions. I am just concerned about people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I wish the Minister of Community and Social Services would refrain from interjecting.

Mr. Martel: They tell me he makes his best speeches when he doesn't know what he is talking about.

An hon. member: It takes one to know one.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, we are also going to move three economic amendments which we hope the minister will accept. He's got them before him. One of them we want to call a Tomorrow Fund—

Hon. Mr. Norton: A what?

Mr. Martel: A Tomorrow Fund.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Tomorrow begins today—or yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yesterday begins tomorrow, isn't that it?

Mr. Martel: I thought it had a nice ring to it.

Hon. B. Stephenson: You would.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of that fund will be—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mañana.

Mr. Martel: No, no. It will be based on the resource taxes which are now extracted, and a certain percentage of those funds we would like to see diverted into a special fund. So that when a Blind River occurs or a Matachewan or somewhere else, we in fact—

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: Yes, don't talk about Matachewan and the Tory literature during the campaign.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Where is Bob Bain? Where is Bob Bain?

Mr. Martel: I remember the member for Timiskaming—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am glad you can still remember him. He hasn't been gone that long.

Mr. Martel: —getting up during the campaign and saying, "The NDP closed down Matachewan." He forgot to read Frank Miller's statements in the House. Dishonest? Call it what you want.

An hon. member: Shame. Shame.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I remember Bob Bain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, we want to guarantee that there is a fund developed so that when a one-industry town starts to go downhill because of its one industry being based on some natural resource which is depleted, that it will not become a ghost town. We are saying that there should be a fund so that the government could help.

The real problem in Blind River, as I understand it, is that the wood is there but it's the difficulty in getting the wood to North Bay to dry it out. Because of the amount of moisture in the wood, there is a great loss in weight during the haulage. It reaches a point where financially you can't do it. So there might be a case of trying to establish an industry based on the woods that are there, and maybe some type of drying process in the area which would allow that to become economically viable.

I well recall going through this time after time with everybody over in TEIGA saying, "We have no money for that sort of thing." We want to move an amendment which would take a certain percentage of the taxes from the non-renewable resources and deposit them somewhere, so that when the day comes we will not see the destruction of a one-industry town, but will be able to turn to a new viable industry.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member is going to direct the hoses and take the moisture out of the wood, is that right?

Mr. Martel: I think we are going to direct the hoses at the minister.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is the member who is going to get hosed. I want to know whether I can support the member's amendments or not.

Mr. Martel: I would expect the ministry to. It's Leo that I need to convince.

Hon. W. Newman: Isn't the member finished yet? Does he like to listen to himself talk all night?

Mr. Martel: Did you wake up, Bill?

Mr. Laughren: Quiet there.

Mr. Martel: Go back to sleep.

Mr. Laughren: Be quiet or I will deface your statue.

Mr. Martel: The second amendment we want to move with respect to economics is the one that was in the 1974 budget, so that you don't get too fanatic about a socialist plot. It was moved by John White. Do you remember John White? He used to be a minister around here. In his 1974 budget he indicated that the government was going to establish a Crown corporation to do exploration for new resources, because, as the minister is well aware, we don't have a new mine on stream—we don't have one close to coming on stream. In fact, exploration in northern Ontario has gone downhill.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You fellows scared them away.

Mr. Martel: We scared them away! The minister's government has been in power for 34 years.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You scared them away.

Mr. Breithaupt: Socialism.

Mr. Martel: Is that socialism?

Mr. Breithaupt: I think that was the reason given, wasn't it?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: I knew he'd blame us. Somebody has got to be responsible for the fact there are no new mines going into the north.

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: That's right, we have been in power. I didn't realize it. I wish somebody had told me.

Mr. Mackenzie: Tory efficiency.

Mr. Martel: Yes, but it's interesting that John White in his 1974 budget proposed a Crown corporation because the mining industry was spending very little money in exploration. That died somewhere along the way. I don't know why, because it is still functioning, as I understand, in Quebec. The problems in Ontario continue to mount; there is very little exploration going on. The minister has tried to buy them into the north. He established a fund worth \$3 million a year or so ago for exploration in and around Cobalt and that hasn't panned out all that well. So we're going to move an amendment along the Tory lines as espoused by the former Treasurer. You should be able to accept that because it did come from the Treasurer, and some of you were around here when John White was here—

Mr. Laughren: A heavyweight.

Mr. Martel: We want to move a lengthy amendment dealing with the lending of

funds. I realize the minister is going to say, "Well, we've got NODC." But NODC doesn't do the job. It provides some money for tourism but in its efforts to encourage not only processing but the manufacturing of raw materials in the north, it has been very tight-fisted with its funding. My colleague, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), will elaborate on that quite extensively when he speaks in this debate.

NODC has failed miserably to help develop the north and that's what it was created for. I remember that 1967 promise as well—it was called the NODC, and it was primarily for northern Ontario, but, in fact, it doesn't do much to develop northern Ontario; it really hasn't. It has developed some tourism, thank you, but it hasn't done much to develop the natural resources and manufacturing related to those natural resources.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Things won't be so bad when they return a majority of Tory members.

Mr. Mackenzie: Why don't you try it?

Mr. Martel: Does the member want to run against me? He is the one who said they are going to knock me off. They've got 9,100 to catch up.

Mr. Lane: You've got them all brain-washed.

Mr. Breithaupt: Back to the bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Back to the bill.

[10:00]

Mr. Mackenzie: You new boys might not come back.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. That hardly pertains to the bill.

Mr. Martel: We want to move that particular amendment because we don't think NODC has provided loans in a sufficient number of areas in order to develop the full potential of northern Ontario.

I'm sure the minister agrees with me. He might not want to say it publicly, but I think he too feels that way about NODC. Maybe the guidelines it operates under are too restrictive to encourage the processing or the manufacturing related to the natural resources.

We want to move that amendment and tie it in to natural resource development, providing loans to co-ops, or to industry, or to businessmen, whoever might want them. And that's something that NODC doesn't do. And I think it's one of the reasons we don't have processing and manufacturing, which leads

to the reasons why young people leave the north, which leads to the other reason why women don't have jobs.

We're simply trying to move three economic amendments—one, a tomorrow fund to prevent ghost towns from developing; the second, an amendment establishing a Crown corporation to do exploration, because the minister knows that it's not going on; and, thirdly, a much broader interpretation on the lending of money in order to entice industry related to natural resources to the north.

I want to tell the minister, I've spent a lot of time on this bill.

Mr. Hennessy: Have you?

Mr. Martel: Yes.

Mr. Hennessy: I didn't even know that.

Mr. Martel: You wouldn't.

Mr. Mackenzie: You never will.

An hon. member: I'm sure that that's not all you don't know.

Mr. Martel: I try to be nice but they keep making these snide remarks—

Mr. Hennessy: Say what you've got to say.

Mr. Martel: —these new boys, these one-trippers. Don't buy a home here yet, okay?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lane: Where are your one-trippers from last time?

Mr. Martel: Some of them aren't here, but some of yours aren't either. Where's Marvin?

Mr. Lane: They're not around. We haven't got any.

Mr. Martel: Where's Marvin? I can't see him over there. I can't even see his seat.

Mr. Lane: We come to stay. We don't just come for a trip.

Hon. W. Newman: You can't see yourself. Why don't you—

Mr. Martel: Willy, don't get exercised.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Where is Bill? Where is Bob? Where is Iain?

Mr. Martel: Well, where is the former Minister of Correctional Services? Is he here?

Interjections.

Mr. Hodgson: Elie, you were better in last night's estimates.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: The extended one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: Listen, why don't you people get back to the principle of the bill?

Interjections.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Elie, you have been there all night.

Mr. Martel: We'd also like to see the minister move with respect to taxation providing some assistance for the dormitory communities. Those communities, as I said earlier, provide the work force, but in fact the camps or the plants are in other townships. Or the mine. And there's no way of getting the funds necessary back to those communities to provide the services which are lacking.

The minister knows of what I speak, particularly in his area, because there are a lot of small communities where the workers travel to somewhere else and there's no tax base to provide the amenities that those communities need. It's a problem that my colleague, the member for Lake Nipigon, has raised time and time again. The minister's aware of it. But it's not in the bill either and the government isn't moving on it. It really isn't.

The minister has a fund of \$500,000 and maybe another \$500,000 coming, but that isn't enough to provide any amenities for one community. It might provide a drinking water system. Who provided that drinking water system in Gogama?

Mr. Laughren: Bill Newman.

Mr. Martel: Was that Bill Newman?

Mr. Laughren: Bill Newman.

Mr. Martel: Oh, yes, he provided the one tap, the community tap for how many people?

Hon. W. Newman: And how many of your guys were up at that gathering?

Mr. Pope: All the drips were together.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Did you check your election brochure?

Mr. Martel: Can you imagine that in Ontario in 1977, a community tap? My God!

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is better than none.

Mr. Pope: And all the NDP standing around collecting the drips.

Mr. Martel: A community tap in northern Ontario. Boy, oh boy. I want to tell you—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You all took credit for it. I will bring the election brochure tomorrow. Tomorrow. Standing beside the water tap.

Mr. Martel: Hopefully, Mr. Minister, you will. Hopefully, Mr. Minister, you will in fact get into your ministry the provision of a taxation base for these dormitory communities, because they simply can't exist.

Mr. Speaker, what I've attempted to indicate is the six amendments we want to move in the bill; a large preamble at the beginning and six major amendments which would give the ministry some substance beyond the co-ordinating role: (a) the major ones to deal with the unorganized townships

to provide the services which are lacking; and (b), a series to deal with the economy, to give the minister the power to deal with the proper economic development of the north.

My colleague, the member for Nickel Belt, will speak to the matter of the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce report which the member for Rainy River spoke about earlier.

I want to tell you they've made Darcy McKeough an honorary member of the Chamber of Commerce in Sudbury based on Darcy's response, which was, for the new Tories: "You won't have secondary industry in northern Ontario for 20 years." That's what Darcy said.

Mr. Warner: That's great.

Mr. Martel: The member for Fort William pounds the desk. We won't have secondary industry in northern Ontario for 20 years, and the member for Fort William obviously supports that, Mr. Speaker. That bodes well for the people in the Fort William area, it really does.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He will be back.

Mr. Martel: We want to move those amendments to provide this ministry, because McKeough doesn't want it, with some of the tools necessary to provide the proper economic development in northern Ontario.

Finally, there's a new rule in the House which says we can move these bills to committee. It also says, in the new rules, I believe, that we can establish subcommittees. I want to propose, Mr. Speaker, that we establish a subcommittee of the standing resources development committee which in fact will tour northern Ontario, which will go to northern Ontario instead of northern Ontario coming here, and I venture to tell you that those people, and I spoke at their convention recently—

Mr. Laughren: In Gogama.

Mr. Martel: —will not be interested in a co-ordinating ministry but in fact are more interested in resolving the problems of the unorganized townships and the proper economic development of the north than anything else; they want some action.

Mr. Warner: They want action, they don't want you.

Mr. Martel: This minister and a subcommittee should go to maybe 10 or 12 of those municipalities and hear from the local people. I want to tell you they'll accept these amendments and they'll give you the power, because that's what we want to give you, the power.

I hope the minister has had an opportunity to see the amendments we're going to move;

and I hope he's amenable to accepting them, because we're going to support the bill on second reading, but—if the amendments don't come I want to tell you we'll oppose the bill on third reading.

Mr. Lane: I'll dare you to.

Mr. Hodgson: That is okay, we don't care.

Mr. Martel: We want to give you a bill that will in fact develop the north properly and get rid of the unorganized townships. We want to give you the tools to do it. It's up to you, as a government, to accept those tools and get on with the job. If you're going to maintain your role as merely a coordinating ministry, then get out.

Hon. B. Stephenson: You couldn't run a peanut stand.

Mr. Martel: That is a hell of a lot more than you could run, I suspect.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is not very nice, that is not very parliamentary.

Mr. Laughren: You can't run a ministry.

Mr. Martel: You're not doing very good at running a ministry or the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Mr. Laughren: That's right; you're a disaster.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You're completely out of order.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, in finalizing my remarks, after 341—

(Applause.)

Mr. Martel: Having just changed my mind, I suspect I'll go on for another hour.

Mr. Lane: We'll do even better when you sit down.

Mr. Eakins: Take 20 minutes to summarize, don't rush the summary.

Mr. Lane: Save it for your leadership convention.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, after 34 years—I guess it's 34 years—

Mr. Lane: Are you that old?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Thirty-four coming up.

Mr. Martel: —of Tory rule in Ontario, we hear the minister saying: "We don't have any mining in northern Ontario, and it's your fault; we don't have any exploration in northern Ontario, and it's your fault." As though we've been in power; the Tories have been in power.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You are scaring them off.

Mr. Martel: You've shafted the north for 34 years.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Don't you like this province?

Mr. Lane: You don't want it to be changed.

Mr. Martel: Oh yes; and we're going to try to provide the tools for it. Is the member for Algoma-Manitoulin going to make a speech on this bill?

Mr. Lane: I just may do that.

Mr. Martel: You just made it. I thought you did. Your contribution was significant, I really want to tell you.

Mr. Lane: I've done more for the north than you ever thought of doing.

Mr. Martel: Yes, the miners in Elliot Lake believe you, they moved south. The Elliot Lake miners believe you.

Mr. Laughren: Tell us about that.

Mr. Martel: After 34 years of neglect.

Mr. Walker: Ask the people up there.

Mr. Martel: I did, in Elliot Lake they voted against him, after 34 years.

Mr. Walker: He won it big; won Elliot Lake big.

Mr. Laughren: No, he didn't.

Mr. Martel: When was that, the first time he ran?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Can we get back to the principle of the bill?

Mr. Walker: He won Elliot Lake this time.

Mr. Laughren: You can't count.

Mr. Martel: After 34 years of Tory neglect.

Mr. Eakins: Take your time in summing up, Elie.

Mr. Laughren: The Archie Bunker of the north.

Mr. Martel: It is going to take some rather bold initiatives to change what has been going on up there. We are going to give those amendments to the minister—

Mr. Lane: We have already got them.

Mr. Martel: —and, hopefully he will accept them. We will support them, and the minister will have the tools to do the job. I only hope the Premier doesn't phone the minister at midnight tonight and say: "Leo, you can't accept any of those amendments" and he will come back tomorrow and stonewall.

Mr. Pope: At least they communicate. How about you and your leader?

Mr. Martel: Do they? I wish they had communicated on whether we were going to support the bill or not. Obviously they didn't.

Mr. Pope: I wish you and your leader would decide what your nationalism policy was.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sudbury East has the floor. Would he address the Chair, please?

Mr. Martel: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Walker: Why should he start now?

Mr. Martel: I hope that if the minister wants this, he will accept the amendment and the suggestion of going to the north to hear those northerners, community by community with a small subcommittee, and then we will do the things necessary to make the north economically sound. Hopefully, we don't have to vote against the bill on third reading. Hopefully, the minister will accept the amendments.

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Some words of wisdom.

Mr. Roy: Give them hell, Mickey.

Mr. Warner: Oh, that was excellent.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Fort William has the floor.

Mr. Hennessy: The hon. member for Sudbury East mentioned 34 years. I thought he was speaking for 34 years here.

Mr. Martel: I could be around for 34 years, not like some one-trippers.

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great pleasure for me, as the newly elected representative of Fort William, to have this opportunity to speak in support of second reading of An Act to establish a Ministry of Northern Affairs. I may be a one-timer, but I am speaking.

Being a native northerner myself, I feel that establishing a ministry for the north, in the north, is the only way in which we will truly bring the northern Ontario story across to the rest of the province—and that's quite a distance to travel, as the north comprises almost 90 per cent of the entire land mass in the province of Ontario, making it roughly nine times the size of southern Ontario, which is where the northern story usually gets somewhat distorted by those who have never been farther north than their cottages in the Muskokas.

Mr. Eakins: Wait until the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. F. S. Miller) hears that.

Mr. Stokes: You are doing fine, so far.

Interjections.

Mr. Hennessy: I can wait.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Fort William has the floor.

Mr. Warner: The member for Fort William is on the floor.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order.

Mr. Hennessy: I don't know how these fellows got out.

Mr. Warner: Stand up.

Mr. Laughren: Don't tease the bears.

Mr. Hennessy: No, the northern story has to be told by those who know the north and its conditions which create unique and difficult problems which are unlike those experienced in the south.

Mr. Martel: There is that phrase again: "unique problems."

Mr. Hennessy: I refer to such things as the harshness of the land, the climate, the sparse population and the expense of everyday necessities which most southerners take for granted.

Mr. Mancini: Did the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) write this for his colleague?

Mr. Hennessy: When I was campaigning, I noticed that a lot of northerners were concerned that many laws and regulations had been made for the south and simply were out of touch with the conditions experienced in the north.

Mr. Warner: Hope they never break their crayons?

Mr. Hennessy: What is necessary and justified for the urbanized, densely populated south is not necessarily very practical for the dispersed population of the north. But this does not mean that my constituents in Fort William, or those in any other northern area for that matter, are content to forgo modern living standards just because they live a great distance from heavily populated south.

Mr. Warner: If you keep this up, you will get Leo's job.

Mr. Pope: That's more than you will get.
[10:15]

Mr. Hennessy: In view of this, many northerners are very enthusiastic about the new ministry of Northern Affairs that would have special responsibility for ensuring that when government decisions are made, the special needs and problems of the North will not be overlooked. Thus, what the north really requires is a ministry such as Northern Affairs to bring together the ideas and policies coming from the various ministries, and a minister—there's your chance, fellas—like my colleague Leo Bernier, to be the northern spokesman—

Mr. Warner: You've missed a cue.

Mr. Martel: Leo, you will have to train them better than that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They're doing very well.

Mr. Hennessy: —to be the northern spokesman in the Legislature and in the cabinet on behalf of all northerners.

Mr. Laughren: Except the miners.

Mr. Hennessy: In sum, the ministry should be the eyes, the ears and the voice of northern Ontario.

Mr. Reid: What about the rest of the body?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. These interjections are not adding to the calibre of the debate. Will the hon. member for Fort William be allowed to continue? Order, please. The member for Fort William.

Mr. Hennessy: Along with the various programs of the other ministries in the north, I think it is very important that the great majority of the personnel in the new ministry, including both assistant deputy ministers, will be living and working in the north. In this way government can be brought closer to the northerners and the age-old problem of trying to get the brass down in Toronto to pay attention to their problems will be less.

I understand that since the earlier version of this legislation was presented, a few adjustments have been made. One of particular importance which I would like to draw to the members' attention is the provision that the Ministry of Northern Affairs will have almost full play in responding to the emergencies in the north, such as natural disasters and fires which threaten both the lives and property of residents. Another emergency program that should be applauded is the emergency water supply assistance program to aid livestock farmers in drought-stricken areas of northern Ontario, jointly funded by the ministries of Northern Affairs and Agriculture and Food. This program will provide well improvements for livestock farmers facing a serious drought in Thunder Bay, Kenora, Rainy River, Algoma, Manitoulin Island, and other parts of the north.

I realize, of course, that the Ministry of Northern Affairs will not be able to find instant solutions to the many problems confronting northern Ontario.

Mr. Laughren: That's part of the problem.

Mr. Hennessy: I do believe, however, that if all the members of this House agree that the people in Northern Ontario have every right to expect the same standard of living as the rest of Ontario, then the Ministry of

Northern Affairs must be fully endorsed to ensure that these northerners—

Mr. Deans: Who has been denying them?

Mr. Hennessy: —have more development and social progress than they have ever experienced before. I thank you for your attention.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker—

An hon. member: A ministry for western Ontario.

Mr. Peterson: —I feel obliged to participate in this debate to put just a little different perspective on it from a different point of view.

Mr. Stokes: You are not even London North.

Mr. Peterson: I don't rise as an expert in northern problems or all of the things that are expressed here tonight. I have sympathy for my colleague from Rainy River and the member for Sudbury, who spoke eloquently and well, as did the minister, in fairness. He has articulated some of the problems.

What disturbs me so very very much is that these problems have existed forever and we have created a new bureaucracy to attempt to attack them. We hear these pleas of sympathy, we hear this nonsense about people not understanding the north, year after year after year in this House, the same old rhetoric, the same old stuff, with no creative new institution to handle them.

Mr. Lane: Better late than never.

Mr. Peterson: What disturbs me, albeit somewhat from afar, is the belief that this new ministry is going to solve one problem. When I look at this bloated, inflated cabinet that you have, this new co-ordinating body of the Ministry of Northern Affairs—it's just going to co-ordinate all of the past functions that should be done by other ministries anyway—it seems to me that it's a mute testament to the failure of various departments over a long period of years. I have spoken at great length on many other occasions, Mr. Speaker, about this great, fantastic growth in government. And had you been a success in your other portfolios this portfolio would not be necessary.

Mr. Hodgson: How would you know?

Mr. Peterson: We have 26 people in the cabinet today in this government. In England they only have 23. We are creating more and more and more bureaucracy.

I looked through the estimates. We're going to be spending \$120 million next year. Yet I look at the estimates of almost every other bureaucracy, every other portfolio

that the minister has presumably taken some functions from—and it has yet to be determined what functions specifically he is taking from whom and how and how much.

I look at TEIGA and he's taking a lot of the TEIGA functions. TEIGA's estimates are up 13.3 per cent for this year. I look at Transportation and Communications. They're up 13.4 per cent. So I think the minister is going to have a very serious job to prove to the members of this House and to the people of this province where he is getting that money and what in fact he is saving. It's just a reallocation. It's just a juggling of numbers sideways. At least in my search—and perhaps I'm mistaken on this—I haven't seen any places where anyone else is saving any great quantities of money.

The minister said tonight in a statement with great pride that he's going to locate his two assistant deputy ministers in the north. Mr. Speaker, they are so behind the times. This should have been done years past. They should have decentralized. There are many ministries here that should be located in the north with the deputy ministers. There's nothing new. There's nothing revolutionary.

Mr. Lane: Better late than never.

Mr. Peterson: It's long, long, long after the fact. We have argued in this party at great length—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You are on both sides.

Mr. Peterson: Totally consistently, totally consistently—that we have said that certain of the ministries, Natural Resources, the Resources Secretariat, those major bureaucracies should be in the north, just as other bureaucracies—for example, Agriculture or whatever—should be in all other parts of Ontario that need the stability of a civil service payroll, that need the stability and the ripple effect that that promotes in that local community.

The minister comes here to this House tonight and in the past few weeks and talks as if he's bringing something revolutionary to the people of the north. In my judgement, albeit I don't have as much experience as he does, it looks to me terribly, terribly, terribly superficial. And it really, as I said before, is a testament to the failure of your past programs—

Hon. Mr. Parrott: Don't be an expert in government.

Mr. Peterson: —and you have had enough problems in other ministries, I say with great respect, Mr. Minister, that you are entering

your job with a very serious credibility problem, not only with the people of this House and particularly on this side—some on your own side also, I should add—but also with the people—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member address the bill through the Chair, please?

Mr. Peterson: Probably if the government was serious about this they would not have distinguished the portfolio with this particular minister.

This whole thing is being used for such blatant political purposes, and we could see that during the campaign. It's interesting. I saw an ad for the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Maeck) during the campaign. It was a most interesting ad. This was just after the government redesignated Parry Sound into northern Ontario—and I assume that's going to be its philosophy, let—

Mr. Mancini: Cheap political trick.

Mr. Peterson: —northern Ontario creep south if it's into political trouble or whatever, for additional grants or whatever.

I remember the ad for the member for Parry Sound was, what is—I forget exactly how it read—"What is Lorne Maeck?" or "What is the Progressive Conservative Party?" It says: "\$10 licence plates."

Hon. W. Newman: We will get Charlie Farquharson after you if you are not careful.

Mr. Peterson: Charlie Farquharson is very fond of me.

An hon. member: You'd better read the ad again.

Mr. Peterson: I saw that ad. I've got a copy of it.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Peterson: But I tell you it smacks of the smelly kind of politics that you're playing with this bureaucracy, that you're playing with this kind of ministry, and frankly it's not the kind of thing that you should be very proud of. I'm ashamed that you're back here.

Mr. Mancini: That's right, Lorne.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member please address his remarks through the Chair?

Mr. Peterson: Would you promise to convey this on?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Peterson: But it's interesting to me also, Mr. Speaker, that the minister comes

in—a minister who is not yet designated. I am not sure, and I'd be interested in knowing under what authority he is operating now, whether he's Minister without Portfolio responsible for northern affairs—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: —whether he is Minister of Northern Affairs, because the legislation is not in place. He can't, as far as I know, in my naivety, call himself the Minister of Northern Affairs. Yet he brings in a bill to introduce his own portfolio. That seems to me at the outset to be a highly presumptuous approach to this kind of problem, particularly in a minority government where you don't have the options that maybe you once had.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You are naive.

Mr. Roy: Yes, where is the authorization for paying you?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue.

Mr. Peterson: I want to see the authority under which he has been paid for these past few months—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: —until the creation of this thing. I think that the whole thing, the whole way it has been set up and the whole way it has been operated, has been presumptuous and doesn't speak to some of the real problems.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: With that kind of homework you will never be leader.

Mr. Peterson: I was also interested in the minister's statement, tonight. He talked about co-ordinating.

Mr. Roy: You certainly haven't been earning your pay, I'll say that for you. You never did, even when you had a ministry.

Mr. Peterson: He talked about co-ordinating housing projects with the Ministry of Housing; he talked about co-ordinating with the Minister of Agriculture for agricultural programs; he talked about co-ordinating with TEIGA for industrial parks and services and for mining with Natural Resources.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Only one person has the floor. Do the other members not realize that? Surely, you don't have to be chastised eternally on this matter of interjections. The hon. member for London Centre is the only one who has the floor at the moment. Would he continue for the next 30 seconds?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker I appreciate that. What is interesting to me, going back to the minister's statement of tonight, is that he talks about co-ordinating with all of these bodies. It seems to me that if there is a job to be done, one ministry should do it. We end up with all these nameless, faceless bureaucrats, co-ordinating, dependent one on the other; so much time spent fussing around.

As was eloquently stated by my colleague from Rainy River tonight, there are more reports on the north, there are more people co-ordinating, more people trying to understand the problems. And the results are dismal. There is no one in this House, on either side of the House, who is happy with what has gone on heretofore.

We hear all these cries about what we need in the north; we hear them from all sides; and assuming that some percentage of it is genuine, we see very, very few genuine attacks on the specific problems. It seems to me at a certain point that rhetoric has got to stop and a lean, efficient delivery of services has to come about, not just in the north, but in all areas.

Mr. Pope: What specifically are you proposing?

Mr. Peterson: What disturbs me about this one is just one more ministry—25, now 26. All of us who have been here, even for as little time as I have been here, realize why this minister is in that job. It is no secret to any observer of the scene here.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member have further remarks, because it is now 10:30?

Mr. Peterson: Perhaps we should adjourn. The debate will be going on tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: I'm trying to determine. If the hon. member just has a minute or two perhaps we can get the permission of the House to—

Mr. Deans: No.

Mr. Peterson: I haven't decided yet, Mr. Speaker. It depends on how much they aggravate. If they aggravate me I'll keep going on forever.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, perhaps in the interest of fairness to my other colleagues and the the other people across the floor I'll just conclude very briefly.

What disturbs me, and I just want to put in this one different perspective, is that I am very pessimistic about the creation of this ministry solving the problems. I am very sympathetic to those problems and I wish

they could be solved. We don't necessarily think they are going to be solved in this way, even though in the circumstances we are going to support the legislation.

On motion by Mr. Laughren, the debate was adjourned.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Parrott, the House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament

Thursday, July 7, 1977

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, Q.C.

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Hansard subscription price is \$15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Printing Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 9th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY MEMBERS' INDEMNITIES

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the final report of the select committee on the fourth and fifth reports of the Ontario Commission on the Legislature, tabled in the House last spring, included endorsement of a recommendation submitted by a consultant firm that the basic indemnity for a member of this Legislature be raised to \$20,000 a year. We have accepted this recommendation, with appropriate refinements to meet the requirements of the Anti-Inflation Board.

The select committee itself recognized the requirement for this conformity and qualified its own recommendation with the statement, and I quote from the report:

"That the increase be implemented in amounts acceptable to the AIB beginning October 1, 1976. This would mean an increase in taxable income of approximately \$2,400 effective October 1, 1976, and a similar effective increase October 1, 1977."

The regulations of the AIB, Mr. Speaker, provide that it is forbidden to increase the total compensation of all the employees in a group in relation to the total compensation of all employees in the base year by an amount which results in the lesser of either of two increases.

Mr. Peterson: That's a nice rose, Billy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It was grown in Brampton.

Hon. Mr. Welch: One is an annual percentage rate of increase that is greater than the permissible percentage rate of increase determined for the group. For members of the assembly, this is a maximum of 12 per cent for the year beginning October 1, 1976, and 10 per cent for the year beginning October 1, 1977.

The second increase not allowed is one greater than \$2,400 in average compensation for the group in the guideline year.

The effect of these restrictions is to limit to \$2,400 the maximum permissible increase

to the total compensation of the members in each of these years. What is more, the maximum must be divided between salary or indemnity and the allowances or benefits paid to the member.

The position of the government, Mr. Speaker, is that in the year ending September 30, 1977, but pro-rated effectively only on September 15, 1977, an increase of \$2,400 be applied to all members' indemnities and allowances. This is about 7.5 per cent of the average compensation of the group.

The September 15, 1977, effective date is in line with the commitment by the Premier in September 1975 to avoid an increase in members' indemnities for two years.

This increase now proposed would, over a full year of effectiveness, increase the indemnity by \$2,200 and increase benefits by about \$200 in the form of increased life insurance, medical insurance and contributions to the legislative assembly retirement allowance fund.

It is also proposed that in the year commencing October 1, 1977, and ending September 30, 1978, there will be a further adjustment in accordance with AIB rules.

Provision will be made for a detailed, independent review about adjustment of the members' indemnity and allowances on an annual basis, or as required, following the ending of the present wage and price guidelines.

Legislative amendments to give effect to these commitments will be introduced later today along with some amendments to The Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowance Act.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon, I will be introducing for first reading a bill that rewrites The Municipal Elections Act. As I indicated on April 15 to the provincial-municipal liaison committee, it is our intention that this new bill be held over the summer in order to allow interested parties to examine and comment on its provisions.

In the course of reviewing municipal election procedures, my ministry has received many requests for major changes from individuals, and from municipalities and their municipal associations, particularly on the issues of the election date, term of office and emergency election procedures. We have been meeting, on an ongoing basis, with the joint election committee of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers to discuss more than 50 recommendations for primarily technical amendments to improve election procedures. The very volume of requests for consideration has necessitated the drafting of a completely new Act. The bill I am introducing today incorporates many of these suggested changes and reflects the government's intention to provide clear and concise election procedures for the municipal governments of this province.

I would like to highlight the significant changes that have been incorporated in the legislation. First, of course, is the change in the election date. We received many requests for a change of date, ranging from early spring through summer and fall, but there has never been a clear consensus.

We continue to hold the view that one date is better than several. It is proposed to change the election date for all municipalities from the first Monday in December to the third Monday in November, which represents a two-to-three-week shift. As it is now, the enumeration conducted by the Ministry of Revenue for both election and assessment purposes is optimally conducted in the fall—

Mr. Sargent: It is none of the Treasurer's business. Let them set their own dates.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —and requires at least one full month to be completed. This, in combination with the variety of other complex, time-consuming election procedures—

Mr. Sargent: The Treasurer has always got to have his finger on everything.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: —has proved the third Monday in November to be the most feasible date.

Mr. Wildman: October would be much better for the north.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Over time, as the process is refined, it may be that the municipal enumeration and other procedures can be further shortened, and at that time we will be prepared to look again at the issue of the municipal election date. In the meantime, the third Monday in November is the acceptable alternative.

Mr. Wildman: Oh, come on.

Mr. Deans: That's ridiculous.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: The mandatory advance polls will facilitate voting as early as the middle of November.

We have made no change in the time at which new councils organize themselves. We would like to run through the 1978 elections at least, with the election date on the third Monday in November and the start-up date for councils on January 1. Should this experience indicate that councils may organize more effectively in December for the upcoming term, we certainly would be prepared to look at this matter again, and would do so particularly in conjunction with the possibility of an earlier election date.

The change in date has required changing some election procedures, such as the preparation, posting and revision of the preliminary list of electors. In addition, the nomination period has been reduced to a single nomination day, but individuals are permitted to file nomination papers during the week preceding the nomination day.

The government has considered a number of requests for changes in the municipal term of office. There has been some pressure for change and it may well prove that a longer municipal council term will be appropriate. Mr. Robarts and Dr. Mayo have both advanced arguments for a three-year term, while Mr. Archer advocates retaining a two-year term and the municipalities are split on the question. However, for the purposes of the municipal elections in 1978, we have decided to continue with the two-year municipal term of office.

Members will recall that severe weather during the December 1974 elections created difficulties in some municipalities. Since that time, there has been considerable discussion on the inadequacy of the provisions for the conduct of elections in emergency situations. The legislation now clearly provides that the clerk, as returning officer, has authority to determine and declare an emergency situation and to make necessary arrangements for the safe, secret and orderly conduct of the poll.

A new provision is included in the bill which prohibits any form of campaign literature within the polling place, and the bounds of the polling place have been defined.

Candidates will no longer be required to have their occupations listed on nomination papers or on the ballot.

From now on, municipal candidates are prohibited from acting as election officials, as are provincial candidates in provincial elections.

Provision has been made to require municipal polls to be open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., which is consistent with the polling hours which generally apply for provincial elections.

Moreover, there will now be two mandatory advance polls, one on the Saturday, nine days before the polling date; the other on the Monday, seven days before the polling date. These provisions increase appreciably the access of electors to the polls.

Further, the length of time during which a person who has been appointed a voting proxy may apply for the appropriate certificate has been extended by three days.

The authority for a municipality to use bilingual forms prescribed under the Act has been expanded to include any notice required under the Act to be posted or mailed.

Finally, any eligible elector will now be entitled to vote on a money bylaw question, but no corporation will be so entitled.

I would like to mention briefly that we received many requests to require a deposit by candidates for a municipal office, or to require an increase in the number of signatures required on nomination papers. These requests have been rejected. A procedure of deposits by candidates is inconsistent with democratic principles and runs counter to this government's firm belief that election to public office must be accessible to all eligible citizens.

We have rejected the request to increase the number of signatures required on nomination papers. The possible benefits this might have in reducing the likelihood or number of frivolous candidates is outweighed by our interest in encouraging participation in government. These decisions were taken before receiving Mr. Robarts' cogent arguments on Monday last. Our position will be re-examined between now and second reading in view of Mr. Robarts' reasoning and other opinions which will undoubtedly be received.

It should be said in closing that this bill is not going to satisfy everyone in all its aspects. This bill will be held at first reading until the fall in order that we may have the benefit of the further comments of interested municipalities, municipal associations and the public. We hope to meet over the summer with the joint election committee of AMO-AMCTO to receive their further comments and suggestions. It is important that this legislation be considered and finalized in the fall, which will allow sufficient time for all those affected by the Act to become familiar with its provisions prior to the 1978 elections.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY WEEK

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with my federal counterpart, the Hon. Romeo LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries and Environment, in declaring the week of July 10 as Great Lakes Water Quality Week.

[Laughter.]

Mr. Deans: That will be a big benefit.

Mr. S. Smith: Going to walk across Hamilton harbour?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Oh, it's going to get better.

The Great Lakes are more than a dividing line between the dense population centres of both sides of the Canada-US border. The lakes and the lands which they drain is the place where some seven million Ontario residents live, work, and play.

Mr. Breithaupt: They sure do.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Recognizing the importance of the Great Lakes to the people of the drainage basin, the governments of Canada and Ontario will be holding public meetings next week in Toronto and Thunder Bay to review with the people the operations and effectiveness of the agreement between Canada and the United States on Great Lakes water quality, which was signed in April, 1972.

My federal counterpart and I urge the people of the province to take part in the many public events and open houses across Ontario next week, in order that their suggestions and recommendations may be considered during the renegotiation of the Canada-US agreement.

HYDRO CONTRACTS

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, point of order, just before you call for questions.

Are you able to put before the House your ruling on the matter I raised before you, sir, a week ago today, in my objection to the comments from the Premier (Mr. Davis) indicating that any questions pertaining to the report that he called for on the investigation into Ontario Hydro would be sub judice?

Mr. Speaker: I was prepared to do that today, but in deference to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), who I think will be interested in the ruling and who is out of town today, I will be doing this tomorrow. I am assured that the hon. Attorney General will be in his seat tomorrow morning when we sit, and whether or not he is here I will give that ruling then. But I

believe out of deference to the Attorney General, because of the involvement of this particular matter, I decided that we should do this tomorrow.

Mr. Nixon: Further to the point of order, I am sure you are aware, sir, that this House is heading towards an adjournment within the next few days, and we on this side feel the questions in this matter are of prime importance. If you have the ruling now, I would ask you, sir, that even in the absence of the Attorney General, you should put it before the House.

Mr. Roy: You are ruling, not the AG.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think I made myself quite clear that the official ruling, the formal ruling, will be given tomorrow. If there are any questions arising on the matter, we will deal with them at that particular time.

[2:15]

Mr. S. Smith: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and with every respect for you and the position you hold, I would like to know on what basis you withhold from the House a ruling necessary to the conduct of the question period, simply because one of our esteemed members is unable to be present today. I can't imagine on what precedents you base such withholding of such vital information.

Mr. Speaker: I think I made myself quite clear. We'll be delivering the official ruling tomorrow morning, whether or not the hon. gentleman is in his seat.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, if you're prepared to deliver the ruling tomorrow even if the Attorney General is not present in the House, Mr. Speaker, then given the fact that the ruling can easily be communicated to him or he can be informed through Hansard, when Instant Hansard is available in an hour or two's time, why could you not give us the ruling today despite the fact that the Attorney General does not happen to be present?

The Premier may not be present tomorrow. We don't know that, but we do know that he's here today.

Mr. Speaker: It doesn't matter. I have assured the House—and on this matter my decision cannot be debated, I remind the hon. members—that I will be delivering it one way or the other tomorrow morning.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will be here.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is the Speaker's ruling and it cannot be debated. We'll call for oral questions and we'll deal with any questions pertaining to that matter as they arise. Now the hon. Leader of the Opposition with his first question.

Mr. S. Smith: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I just announced that the ruling cannot be debated at this time. We'll hear the hon. member's first question.

Mr. S. Smith: What I'm asking you on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, is whether this is a ruling. If it's a ruling you're making that you refuse to give a ruling, then in fact we have an option of challenging that as a ruling. But if it's simply a refusal to give a ruling, then it's not a ruling in itself. Consequently, I'm trying to—

Mr. Deans: That helps; that really helps.

Mr. Cassidy: That's real Liberal insight.

Mr. S. Smith: That's very important. I would ask you, with every respect sir, could you enlighten us as to what possible redress is open to us if the Speaker simply refuses to give a ruling? Is there any avenue open to a member under those circumstances?

Mr. Speaker: I probably used a poor choice of words when I said the word "ruling." I will be delivering the ruling tomorrow as indicated. As I said, we will deal with any questions that arise pertaining to a particular matter as they arise.

Mr. Sargent: What's the reason for the timing?

Mr. MacDonald: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a different point of order because it's been debated?

Mr. MacDonald: I have a related point of order. Would the Speaker inform the House as to whether he is doing this of his own volition or at the request of the Attorney General?

Mr. Speaker: No, the Attorney General had nothing to do with it. But what I have to say will involve the Attorney General and out of deference to him he should be here. I'm assured he will be here, as I stated before. If he is not, I will go ahead anyway. The Leader of The Opposition will have his question now.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I have—

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I recognized the Leader of the Opposition.

FRANCO-ONTARIAN RIGHTS

Mr. Roy: I have a point of privilege, which can be raised at any time, on another matter.

Mr. Speaker: We will hear a point of privilege.

Mr. Roy: My point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, involves my questioning of the Attorney General yesterday pertaining to the rights of Franco-Ontarians and the right to use French in our courts. You weren't in the chair then, but in any event, Mr. Speaker, I asked certain questions of the Attorney General on this. Last night on CBC television the Attorney General of this province was quoted—and I've not seen this in Hansard—as saying that any attempt on his part to legislate the rights of Franco-Ontarians to use French in the courts would be, in his words and he was quoted as saying, “window dressing.”

I did not hear him say this in the House but it seems to me if that is the policy, it's somewhat cynical and an insult to Franco-Ontarians. I want to say that it seems to me not in keeping—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Why don't you wait and ask him the question? Ask him the question when he gets back.

Mr. Roy: —with our attitude or the attitude of this province towards Canadian unity and the rights of minorities right across this country.

Mr. Speaker: I suggest the hon. member may, if he wishes, question the Attorney General upon his return on that matter.

ORAL QUESTIONS

RELEASE OF REPORTS

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Health: Is the minister prepared to release two reports for which my staff have asked ministry personnel for the last week or two? The one report concerns allegations made by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association regarding improper committal to mental institutions in this province; and the other report concerns ambulance services, dated October, 1975. Can the minister explain whether he is prepared to release them and why such simple requests for such reports always cause us such problems with his staff?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I wasn't aware that the Leader of the Opposition's staff had made such simple requests. Were they made to my office or to staff level? Perhaps if he would let me know where they were made, I could find out what the problem is. I am not

familiar with the October report; I will find out about that.

We are reviewing the submission of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association; and as I indicated in announcing the review of The Mental Health Act we will, where we deem it necessary, introduce amendments; and, in reviewing their submission, we will consider whether we should introduce amendments to the Act, say in the fall session of the Legislature. But, aside from memoranda which have passed back and forth from me to my deputy and various staff members and reviews by the staff, there is not a report as such. If there is any particular information the Leader of the Opposition wants, I will be glad to give it to him.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, I want to be sure I understand correctly. Is the minister prepared to give us these two reports? The one that he has, whether we call it a report or not, is the submission from the Canadian Civil Liberties Association; and there is the ambulance services one, which I think was raised with the minister at some point on a CITY television program, which alleges, whether it is true or not, that many lives could be saved in this province if we concentrated more on care at the scene rather than on rapid transportation? In view of the apparent importance of these reports, could he assure us that we can have them to look at?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: With respect, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the assertions of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, I would have to say I responded to that when I announced—I think it was in this House—the review of The Mental Health Act and the services for the mentally ill. Since then, with our staff and in particular with one of the legal staff, we have been considering that submission—and, quite frankly, other submissions we have had—in line with my commitment to introduce amendments as necessary rather than waiting for the whole review process to complete itself, as to whether or not we should introduce amendments in the fall.

I will give the Leader of the Opposition a response to that report of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, if that is what he would like. I'd be glad to do that. With regard to the other report, that has been a public document for some time—so I was advised at the time—and I'll get him a copy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. S. Smith: A related question, but this time to the Premier: In view of the fact that the freedom of information and individual

privacy commission will take some time to make its recommendation and, I presume, will be followed by a period of consideration by the government, is the Premier prepared to introduce temporary guidelines to take effect now with regard to the release of information, so as to avoid this constant cat-and-mouse game over individual reports that happen to be in the hands of the ministry and could be of importance to this entire Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I really don't know what the Leader of the Opposition means by the introduction of guidelines, Mr. Speaker. I really don't know how that procedure works. It's a new one to me, introducing guidelines in the Legislature—

Mr. Swart: Like the food land guidelines.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They weren't introduced in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would only say to the Leader of the Opposition it has been my experience that, by and large, when the members opposite or others wish some documentation from the government—

Mr. Cassidy: They get refused.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that the bulk of it is available.

Mr. Cassidy: Nonsense.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would also point out that this is why we have established the commission to study the issue; that is, to determine that which should be made public and that which should not be. But my experience has been that there has been very little that hasn't been made public in one form or another.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of supplementary, will the Premier consider—I believe he knows what guidelines mean—issuing to the civil service some guidelines regarding, basically, the kind of information they can hand out while waiting for the report from the freedom of information commission?

I would remind the Premier, just to give him examples, of the Foisey-Moon report on testing and evaluation, the interministerial report on residential services, and the stalling now on these reports from the Ministry of Health. These are the sort of things that make constructive opposition very difficult on behalf of the people of Ontario, and some temporary guidelines would be of great assistance.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In some instances, there really is no report to give. But, leaving that aside for the moment, I would suggest to the Leader of the Opposition if there is a

particular report that he or any member opposite is interested in, if the member is having difficulties—because public servants are human beings, believe it or not, and there are some sensitivities—I think it is quite proper for a member to contact directly the minister who is responsible, and he or she may take the responsibility here in the House. I think it is a little bit unfair to be critical in a general sense of the public service because—

Mr. Sargent: What do you do if he sits in his seat and doesn't answer?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I really won't answer the interjection from the member for Grey-Bruce.

Mr. Sargent: He chickens out.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Who chickened out? Who was it who chickened out, Eddie?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Premier is answering other questions.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am trying to be as helpful as I can on how, if I were a member, I would seek to get this information. I would go directly to the minister.

RENFREW NURSING HOME

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. I wonder, before I ask, does the Minister of Health have any answer to my question from yesterday yet?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: On Renfrew?

Mr. Deans: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: There was an answer prepared before I left my office, Mr. Speaker, with which I wasn't satisfied and I have asked for further information. There is another report coming in late today by another inspector.

Mr. Deans: I just wondered if there was any answer before I asked. Now for my first question.

Mr. Roy: What is your second question?

Mr. S. Smith: What is your second one?

Mr. Grossman: Second question, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: This is your second question, I presume.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would challenge that, Ian.

Mr. Deans: Are you serious? Are you serious that this is the second question?

Mr. Speaker: That's what you said.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That is the second question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You have had three.

An hon. member: Three strikes and you are out.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: You are joking, you are joking.

An hon. member: He'd better be.

Mr. Speaker: Is there some doubt? I understood the hon. member—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member asked a question of the Minister of Health. Now he has asked another question of some other minister; one, two.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: No, the hon. member for Wentworth will proceed, thank you.

Mr. Gaunt: I just changed my vote from Mike to Ian.

Mr. Roy: Get in some supplementaries, Ian.

Mr. Deans: It's taken me long enough anyway. You might as well have let me ask two questions.

Can I then, by way of a supplementary question to the Minister of Health, ask whether he might be able to tell us what it was in the report that he got that he found unsatisfactory?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: No.

An hon. member: That's three.

Mr. Deans: This is all to do with freedom of information and care of the public.

Mr. Speaker: Now which question? That was a supplementary, I will accept that.

SAULT-SUDBURY RAIL SERVICE

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the Premier, if I may. Given that the federal cabinet has upheld the CTC ruling with regard to the discontinuance of passenger service from the Sault to Sudbury, is the Premier prepared now to make a statement in keeping with his promise during the election that if the federal government didn't live up to its obligations to provide adequate transportation in the north he and the government of Ontario would provide adequate transportation, and guarantee those people there will be a service to meet their needs between Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, since this one is no longer going to be in service?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member in his question said "is the Premier prepared now". If "now" is defined as meaning "at this moment," the answer to that part would be no. In relationship to the longer perspective though, as to whether as a government we are endeavouring to seek

alternatives, the answer to that would be yes.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary question: Can the Premier indicate whether one of the alternatives is along the lines suggested by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) at the time this became a matter of public interest, that the Ontario Northland or some other suitable service by road or by rail should be made available? Has the Premier been able to prevail upon the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) to see the wisdom of that, as my colleague from the Sault has been attempting to do for some time?

Hon. B. Stephenson: He is not from the Sault, he is from Algoma.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't know which colleague from the Sault the member is referring to.

Mr. Deans: Algoma, my colleague from Algoma.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I didn't think the member had any colleagues in the Sault as a result—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, he certainly hasn't many colleagues in the Sault, certainly not enough.

I always, Mr. Speaker, listen to the constructive suggestions of the Minister of Housing as they relate to matters concerning his riding and those surrounding communities. They are always very worthwhile and very positive in nature.

[2:30]

Mr. Deans: What did the Premier think of his \$600,000 expenditure?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Whether this particular suggestion has practical application, of course, is something that we have to assess.

Mr. Deans: When?

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary: Is the Premier aware that at the time of the original hearing in Sault Ste. Marie in May 1976, the provincial government's representative, a lawyer for the MTC, stated they were not against the discontinuance because Greyhound could handle the passengers? Is the Premier further aware that the day the announcement of discontinuance was made, Greyhound increased its fares between Sudbury and the Sault?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, Mr. Speaker, I really am not aware of the fare structure or when it was altered with respect to that service from the Sault to Sudbury. I must confess to the hon. member I am not aware of that.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary: Mr. Speaker, can the Premier tell us if one of the difficulties the provincial government seems to have in expanding the provincial rail service throughout northern Ontario, which has been to my memory at least since 1970, has been a difficulty in negotiating with the federal government or with CN-CP for track rights along their routes which we would have to use?

Mr. Martel: What about the run you promised to Parry Sound—North Bay?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, actually, to answer the supplementary question from the member for Sudbury East—

Mr. Speaker: Which wasn't very supplementary, but if the Premier has a short answer we'll hear it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —which had to do with Parry Sound, I've got to remind him he didn't have many colleagues there either. But to deal with the original question, which related to extension of rail service—

Mr. Martel: That railroad you promised.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —obviously part of the problem we face, whether it is with the GO service or any rail service the province of Ontario undertakes, is the cost fact or with respect to either CN or CP; yes, he's quite right.

Mr. Foulds: How come you can do it for the south but not for rail service in the north?

CONDITIONS AT DON JAIL

Mr. Bradley: A question for the Acting Minister of Correctional Services: In the light of the tragic jail fires in Stratford, in New Brunswick and as recently as last night in Connecticut; and considering his view that the Don Jail is no worse than it was 10 years ago, when it's closure had already been recommended; and given the city of Toronto report outlining the intolerable shortcomings of the jail; is the minister now prepared to take immediate action to close the Don Jail, so that we will no longer continue to play Russian roulette with the lives of prisoners in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, like many at the present time, the hon. member for St. Catharines is suggesting we should close the Don Jail immediately. I'm sure that most of the members on this side of the House and all sides of the House wish that that were possible. However, let me remind him that in the last number of years since the province took these institutions over,

some eight or nine years ago, we have spent many millions of dollars and done much planning in trying to update the correctional services and jail facilities of this province.

We recently opened an institution in the east end of Metropolitan Toronto for some 200 inmates. Later this month we'll be opening one in Etobicoke for a similar 200 inmates. Regrettably, because of the increase in the jail population of the Metropolitan area, for various reasons—one is the reform of the bail Act, which was not contemplated some time ago; that is, the tightening up on bail procedures; another matter is Legal Aid, the long retentions during appeal period where the people want to stay close to their lawyer and therefore are kept in the local jails rather than sent out to where they might otherwise be, in some other correctional institution; and because we are at the height of population of young people at the present time who, unfortunately, end up in our jails as opposed to older people—there is not sufficient capacity in the Metropolitan Toronto area to hold all of the people.

It's easy to say close the jail today, but nobody has suggested any alternative for closing the jail.

Mr. Foulds: Try Minaki Lodge.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I don't know exactly what we are supposed to do with the people if we close the Don Jail; where do they want us to house these inmates? Whether they are suggesting we should turn them out on society or not, I don't know.

Mr. Wildman: Why don't you build a new one?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: It's very easy for the press and for other people to suggest that we should close the jail immediately—

Mr. S. Smith: And free the prisoners, of course. Yes.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: —but none of them have given us any practical alternatives.

Mr. Wildman: Build another one.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Now I have said we are building jails just as reasonably quickly as we can.

Mr. Breithaupt: Room for everyone.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: We opened one last month. We're opening another one this month. That will look after some 400 people.

The hope was that we would be able to limit the number of people in correctional institutions to some 200 people. One of the

things I am examining is the possibility of putting more than 200 people in these new institutions. I don't know whether it's possible, but it may be preferable to do that than leaving the overcrowded situation in the Don Jail.

Mr. Cassidy: If it weren't for crime—

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Taking some of these people out will relieve it, but not to the point where we'll be able to close the Don Jail completely. We do have plans to get out of there eventually and I hope that we'll be able to speed that up.

Mr. Sargent: Why don't you try the old Hydro building?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: But in the meantime, we will have to continue at least to use the newer section of the Don Jail for some time.

Mr. Foulds: This is filibustering.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: But I would remind the member that we took this over some eight or nine years ago. The Toronto jail was condemned many years ago, at the time when the municipalities and the counties had responsibility for it. Now the municipalities and the counties—many of them and certainly in Metropolitan Toronto—did very little about improving the facilities of the Don Jail. The province is doing its best and has done far more than the county of York and the city of Toronto ever did to improve the Don Jail.

So I can say, Mr. Speaker, that we are doing our best. We wish to close out that Don Jail just as much as anybody else wants to close it out, but we have to be practical. Now if anybody has a better answer—

Mr. Deans: I doubt if anyone has a longer one.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: —other than to suggest we build another jail, which we are planning to do in the Mimico area, the Toronto south centre, we'd be glad to hear it.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, the member for High Park-Swansea.

I'm sorry. I didn't notice the hon. member who asked the original question wanted a supplementary. So we'll allow the hon. member for St. Catharines with his supplementary.

Mr. Bradley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question: Would the minister provide the House with an up-to-date inventory of the number of prisoners in the Don Jail, together with a list of the offences they have committed; and second, of the number of prisoners in other facilities in and around Metropolitan Toronto? And would he consider relocating some of the prisoners so that the Don can be closed?

Hon. B. Stephenson: He just said that.

Mr. Williams: There's one less than there was last week anyway.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is a great transition; they move in and out.

Mr. Reid: The quality has gone up.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, without regarding the part of Peel from which some of the members in this House come, if we're just looking at the city of Toronto, we generally need accommodation for a jail population of around 800 to 900.

Mr. Roy: Is that first class or second class?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: The hon. member asked a number of questions. He asked whether we would be considering relocating some inmates. I've already indicated to him in our plan that we do plan to relocate some.

Mr. Martel: We might try opening up Burwash again.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Good idea.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: But as I say, we have accommodation in the Don Jail which is overcrowded, no question.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: We have built these two new jails and I'm looking to see whether we can't equalize them out a little bit, but they have to be within reasonable distance of the courts. That's the whole purpose of it.

Mr. Ziemba: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Solicitor General suppose most of his problem is that he's throwing people into jail who shouldn't be there in the first place?

[Applause.]

Mr. Leluk: They didn't keep you long enough.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Only those who arrange to go there, that's all.

Mr. Ziemba: But what I'd like to ask him is, instead of building more, and bigger and more expensive jails—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Ziemba: —what I'd like to ask him is instead of building—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Those who make their reservations.

Mr. Deans: Where is your sense of humour?

Mr. Ziemba: —more modernistic and expensive jails, he should be using that same money for alternative programs so that our young people don't end up in jail and—

Mr. Speaker: Your question?

Mr. Ziemba: That's the question.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: How about the older ones?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to find fault with what my good friend is suggesting. We have in this country a disproportionate number of people in our jails.

Mr. MacDonald: We are almost a match for South Africa.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: One of the reasons the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and I were down in Ottawa last week was to find out just how we could make amendments to allow for community service orders and things of this nature. And we were promised co-operation—by way of amendment—from the Minister of Justice in Ottawa. We ourselves are looking at procedures whereby we can speed up our own system; we're looking at the problem of the administration of courts.

I would agree we have too many people in the jails of this province, particularly in the holding institutions such as the Don Jail. We are looking for ways in which they will not be overcrowded.

Mr. Speaker: Next question?

Mr. Roy: A supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There have been general questions and lengthy answers. If we have time we'll come back to it, but we'll get to a new question now. Are there no questions over there?

Mr. Mackenzie: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I'm sorry. The hon. member for Hamilton East.

CCAS DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Labour concerning the action at a mediation meeting on Tuesday this week, in the dispute with the Catholic Children's Aid workers, whereby the union, in an attempt to show good faith, withdrew one of the major areas of contention at the meeting, and the response of the management of the Catholic Children's Aid was to withdraw all offers that it had agreed to up to that point. Would the minister agree that there seems to be a lack of bargaining in good faith and that this is an example of where we can attempt to order them at least to sit down and take a look at what the issues are in this dispute?

Hon. B. Stephenson: The mediators of my ministry have been attempting to do just that but, indeed, if the union feels strongly that the management is not bargaining in good faith, it has a remedy available to it of which it has not as yet availed itself.

Mr. Mackenzie: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: At what point in time are we going to take a look at what the words, "bargaining in good faith" mean in view of not only this situation but a number of such situations—whether it's Custom Aggregates, or the telephone answering service, or you name it? We just don't seem to have anything which means "bargaining in good faith."

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Mr. Martel: When do you defend the workers?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the definition of the words "bargaining in good faith" is, I think, examined with very frequent regularity within the Ministry of Labour certainly, as a result of the deliberations of the Labour Relations Board.

Mr. Cassidy: And then it's ignored.

Hon. B. Stephenson: There are instances in which the ministry, I'm sure, would feel strongly that it might counsel—

Mr. Germa: Why does the minister hate the workers?

Hon. B. Stephenson: —certain parties to disputes to lay the charge before the Labour Relations Board but it is their responsibility. The parties to the disputes do have the responsibility of laying the charge before the Labour Relations Board for the remedy which is available to them.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary on this. The member for Hamilton East.

Mr. Mackenzie: Surely the minister realizes that to establish bargaining in good faith, or to establish the refusal to do so, is almost impossible under the current Act.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I'm not sure that that's a real question. I just disagree with the member's opinion.

Mr. Speaker: I didn't detect a question. That was a statement. Order, please.

CUSTOM AGGREGATES

Hon. B. Stephenson: Yesterday afternoon the hon. member for Hamilton East asked me a question concerning the Custom Aggregates dispute. On April 22 of this year there was an application for de-certification filed before the Ontario Labour Relations Board. The board held its first hearing on this matter in May 9, at which time it referred the file to a hearing officer for investigation and the taking of evidence. The hearings are continuing and I'm informed that the next scheduled appearance before the hearing officer is July 12.

The hon. member also asked a question regarding apparent incidents, or alleged in-

cidents, occurring at the plant, and the allegation that in most cases the workers who were replacing the members of the union came from the province of Quebec. I've been informed that there has, indeed, been a continuous turnover of employees at this location since March 16, 1977. However, I am informed that the employees who have worked at this quarry from March 16 to this date come from Toronto, Ottawa, Markham, Cornwall, Guelph, Matatchewan, Oakville, Willowdale and Tillsonburg. There is no evidence at this time to support the allegation that most of these workers are from the province of Quebec.

In addition, the company has retained the services of a security company from Montreal—which has an Ontario licence, I'm told—solely for the purpose of guarding the property and the equipment. This security force of five people is required, the company believes, because the quarry covers approximately 200 acres and it was decided by the company some time ago to hire the security personnel after there were several incidents of sabotage to the equipment in that quarry.

Mr. Mackenzie: May I answer the minister?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. The hon. member for Hamilton East has a supplementary.

Mr. Mackenzie: Will the minister not ascertain or let this House know whether or not, in the hearings before the officer on the de-certification appeal, three of the employees questioned and challenged were employees who were brought in from the province of Quebec, and were not working there before the strike started?

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am aware there is some question regarding the de-certification process and the acquisition of information in hearings before the officer. I do not know the details of that at this time.

[2:45]

TOURISM

Mr. Eakins: A question for the Minister of Industry and Tourism: In reference to his statement that the climatic conditions of this province are partly responsible for the lower tourist trade in the first quarter of each year, would he not agree that perhaps it is time for some of his ministry's promotional campaigns to capitalize on the unique features offered during our winter season so that we might reverse the declining trend we have experienced in visitors during the first quarter?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: That has really been the direction of our advertising program. I think if the critic for the Liberal Party on the Ministry of Industry and Tourism would

look at the advertising program that we have submitted to him, he would see we have put tremendous emphasis on the winter attractions in the province of Ontario to bring people here to ski and to participate in other winter activities.

Mr. Eakins: Supplementary: Given the importance of tourism to the economy of the province in that it represents our second largest industry, and given the fact that the growth rate of revenue as generated from tourism has been declining since 1974, when can we expect to see the results of his ministry's promotional campaigns, in particular the campaign directed to United States visitors that he announced when we brought this to his attention last November? I emphasize the importance of advertising in the United States because the Canadian dollar took another unexpected decline yesterday and it's a factor that obviously has some significance on the tourist trade in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: A year ago when I was referring to some of the problems we were experiencing in the tourist industry, I related it to the fact that the value of the Canadian dollar versus the American dollar was not very advantageous to bring people into the province of Ontario or into this country and that we expected there would be a down position and devaluation of the Canadian dollar in 1977 that likely would help the tourist traffic.

We do believe in the current year that it will help the tourist traffic. To what extent, we are not positive at this moment, other than to say that in the immediate past weeks there has been a substantial improvement in numbers of people coming from the United States to this province and to this country. I say to the members of this House that Ontario has maintained its very substantial percentage of US visitors—

Mr. Sargent: In spite of you.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: —in spite of certain people from Owen Sound, I will tell the member. Fifty-six per cent of all Americans leaving that particular country and coming to Canada principally come to the province of Ontario. That's a marked improvement over the last seven or eight years, about a 10 per cent improvement, which I think is rather substantial. We attribute a great deal of that success to the advertising program.

The advertising program we have had has been redesigned in the last 12 months. We have gone away from television, I said this to the House some days ago, and we have gone into more selective publications in the United States. We believe the people reading those particular magazines and news-

papers have a larger disposable income and the likelihood of them travelling into Ontario and Canada is much greater. We think this particular program will be very rewarding for the tourist industry of this province over the next 12 months.

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary: Can the minister indicate what attempts the ministry is making to ensure that the establishments in the province are giving the tourists the exchange rate? One of the major complaints we have in the Sault Ste. Marie-Algoma area is that the tourists are not receiving the proper exchange rate when they do go into retail and accommodation establishments.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I am sure the member will appreciate that there is no legislation that forces any businessman into honouring the exchange rate.

Mr. Reid: Including the Liquor Control Board.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Just a moment, I said "honouring the exchange rate." We have suggested very strongly to the Chambers of Commerce and to the travel associations that they should suggest to their members as forcefully as possible that if we are to continue to have a good image in this province, we should honour the exchange rate on the money so that it is an advantage to bring people to the province of Ontario. That's the extent to which my ministry has gone through its field operations and directly to the Chambers of Commerce and the travel associations in recommending to them that they carry the message back to their members so that we can use that, and we will use it, as a plus factor for Americans coming to the province of Ontario.

CCAS DISPUTE

Mr. McClellan: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services with respect to the strike at the Metro Catholic Children's Aid Society. As the minister responsible for the administration of The Child Welfare Act, can the minister explain to me why he has refused to meet with representatives of Focus and why he has refused to answer their four telephone calls a day since last Monday, July 5? Would he agree, please, to meet with them to review the implications of this strike?

Mr. Wildman: Very poor telephone service.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I have not refused at any time to meet with the group the hon. member refers to. When I was first approached last week, I immediately arranged for a senior official in my ministry to meet

with the group. That meeting did take place, and I have been briefed on that.

I was not aware that they had been phoning, as he suggested, four times a day since that time. I would like to assure him I am concerned about the welfare of the children. The question of the dispute in the negotiations is a matter under the jurisdiction of another minister, it is not within my jurisdiction. The staff of my ministry is monitoring the situation so as to ensure that the welfare of the children is not in jeopardy, and I am assured that that is, in fact, the case.

Mr. McClellan: Supplementary: Given the current efforts to review the role and status of Children's Aid Societies, raised again in the Robarts report, and given that the capacity for sensible and responsible labour-management relations will be an important consideration in deciding whether or not any Children's Aid Society will continue to enjoy autonomous status, would the minister not agree that it would be useful for him to meet with the management of the Catholic Children's Aid Society and communicate that reality as forcefully as possible?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sorry, I obviously didn't hear the operative part of the question. I know it was rather a lengthy one, and I hate to ask if he would repeat it, but would he mind? I am sorry.

Mr. Roy: Oh, come on.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member just repeat the question part, please?

Mr. McClellan: The capacity for sensible labour-management relations will be an important determination with respect to the continuing autonomous existence of any Children's Aid Society, given current review efforts, and the minister should meet with the management of the Catholic Children's Aid Society and communicate that to it. Would he?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to inject myself into a situation where there is a labour dispute that is not within my jurisdiction. I will continue, through the staff of my ministry, to monitor the situation with respect to ensuring that the welfare of the children is not in jeopardy. It is not my role to intervene in such disputes.

MINING TAX

Mr. Reid: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources, notice of which he has been given—30 seconds ago.

Mr. Stokes: The answer is no.

Mr. Reid: Can the minister expand on his comments last night in regard to an interpretation of The Mining Act in regard to companies making donations to communities in the province of Ontario? I believe he knows what I am talking about in that regard. Also, regarding the mining industry, can he indicate what action has been taken on the Ontario Securities Commission policy 3-02 in regard to the junior mining companies and their financing in the province of Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Those are quite distinct questions, I hope the hon. member knows. In effect, he slipped two into one.

Mr. Reid: They are both relating to one area.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's very much in keeping with my policy—two for one.

It happened that Hansard last night incorrectly typed my interjection, and because it knew it had incorrectly typed my interjection, or assumed it had, it was kind enough to send me a rush copy. I just finished explaining the same thing to the member for Lake Nipigon.

My interjection last night, while the member for Rainy River was speaking, to say the least, at length, on various topics—

Mr. Reid: It didn't seem that way to me.

Hon. F. S. Miller: —was that in fact the 15/65 rule of mining tax credit compensates for the lack of the social investment allowance in many communities in the north. I probably need some time to explain this, which this period doesn't allow me to do.

It took me three hours last night, and I had just gone through those three hours as I met the hon. member—three hours' listening to my staff explain the calculation of a model mining tax assessment. It's a very complex thing, and I'd be glad to go through it with the member for Rainy River or the member for Lake Nipigon, because I think an understanding of it would tell them this: We have in Ontario the most enlightened tax credits of any province in Canada.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We're the only ones allowing, for example, a full 35 per cent of original capital investment per year on northern Ontario investments for refining, concentrating, smelting and processing. It goes on for ever.

Interjection.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We allow this credit to be lumped against the profits earned by a mining company in the mining operations.

Eight per cent is the lowest we'll permit in the calculation—

Mr. Reid: Maybe the minister should send me a letter.

Mr. Roy: Oh, you can't make that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Well, the hon. member asked for it. We give them at least 15 per cent credit on the gross profit of the mining and smelting operations to offset the losses they may otherwise have had through not having this credit in the community. So many mines don't pay any mining tax per se. They only pay income tax.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Am I allowed to answer the other part, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: I thought the hon. minister had completed his answer, and I'm calling for the next question.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No.

Mr. Reid: No, he hadn't.

Mr. Speaker: I think that was your second question, though.

UNITED ASBESTOS PLANT

Mr. Laughren: A question for the Premier: Would he indicate to us and to the people in Timiskaming what steps he is taking to ensure that the United Asbestos mine near Matachewan—

Mr. Havrot: Why don't you follow up first?

Mr. Laughren: —will be opened, as was promised by his good friend and colleague, the member for Timiskaming, during the recent election?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will be delighted to discuss that matter with the member for Timiskaming.

Mr. MacDonald: This is a means of you getting together with him.

Mr. Havrot: Why don't you wait till the creditors get that matter resolved?

Mr. Laughren: Supplementary: Would the Premier assure us, and the good people in Timiskaming, that his delay in making any kind of announcement or in refusing to take any steps whatsoever has nothing to do with the statement by the present member for Timiskaming on the night of the election that the victory was all the sweeter because he'd accomplished it without any visits from the Premier?

Mr. Havrot: I did not say that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am delighted the hon. member was able to accomplish it without my visitation.

Mr. Breithaupt: So is he.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And perhaps so is he.

Mr. Havrot: It was a reflection on the previous member, wasn't it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can only say—and I'm a very modest person—that in spite of all the difficulties, my visitations produced more than those of either the member for Hamilton West (Mr. S. Smith) or the member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis).

Mr. Havrot: Why doesn't the member do his own homework? They're really in bad shape over there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He was so interested in the resource industry that he didn't even want his leader in Sudbury.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Acting Minister of Correctional Services has the answer to a question asked previously.

GRANDVIEW FACILITY

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I have the answer to a question asked previously by the member for Cambridge regarding the future of Grandview School.

The member will recall that on April 13, 1976, the then Minister of Correctional Services, the Hon. John Smith, told the Legislature that Churchill House, a maximum-security facility, would be converted to accommodate adult offenders; that it was intended to use it as a backup detention centre for inmates from the Guelph and Kitchener areas and thus relieve the overcrowding in those jails.

This is still the ministry's intention, and we do have a work party of about 12 minimum-security inmates, who have been thoroughly vetted for the job, living at Grandview School and working on the conversion of Churchill House to serve as a detention centre annex. These men are under supervision, of course, both on the job and at night.

The then minister also said that Grandview School proper would be upgraded and altered by an inmate working group for eventual full use as an adult training centre. My staff continues to see the facility as usable eventually as such a centre. In a letter to Mr. Norman Gamble, superintendent of facilities in the Cambridge community service department, Mr. John Jones, the ministry's regional volunteer co-ordinator, referred to this development as follows: "There are some conversions going on in our ministry regarding the repopulation of the total complex, at which time much greater use of the facility will be made by the inmates."

[3.00]

I understand this letter received local publicity through the publication of a report of the council meeting in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. Mr. Jones was indicating to Mr. Gamble that the community could not expect unlimited use of the facilities such as a swimming pool and arena while a conversion is under way to adult use. I agree with Mr. Jones's conclusion that community use of the Grandview facility will be limited by the reconstruction presently under way, and by any expanded program that might be initiated. The ministry's record of community use of its facilities consistent with security is a good one, and we will do what we can to assist selected organized groups in those recreational activities that it seems practical to accommodate at the Grandview facility.

If I may just add to that, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) suggested to me that we should be using the facility there to look after some of the people we were talking about earlier. I am just saying that this is an example where we are using an old facility and upgrading it to look after some of the adult offenders, but they still must be situated locally so they can be close to the local court.

Mr. Davidson: Supplementary: I take it from the minister's response that I can now assure the city council that the remaining buildings on that property, other than Churchill House, will not be converted into an adult detention centre for the region?

Mr. Speaker: I noticed the interrogative inflection that time.

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: I don't think I went that far. I think we said we were converting part of it and we were not decided completely what we were going to do with the rest of it, but we were in the middle of a conversion program in making some of it over to adult institutions.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary, and ask a question, please.

Mr. Davidson: Can I then ask the minister, if there is consideration or will be future consideration given to converting that into a regional adult detention centre, will the minister also take into consideration that no action such as that will be taken without consulting with the city council of the city of Cambridge?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, we will try to consult with as many people as possible, but I don't think I can bind the hands of any future minister for certain that that consultation will take place.

Mr. Sargent: Resigning, are you?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: We will keep the request in mind and do our best to consult with all those concerned.

NORTH PICKERING PROJECT

Mr. Stong: I have a question of the Premier. In spite of the fact that the Minister of Housing on Tuesday of this week indicated to the House that he had personally not received a notice of dissatisfaction from the Ombudsman with respect to the constitution of the North Pickering royal commission, did the Premier receive a letter from the Ombudsman on April 26 which stated that he was totally and completely dissatisfied with the setup and the constitution of that commission and that he found it completely unacceptable to him because he had not been previously consulted?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will have to check my somewhat voluminous correspondence with the Ombudsman to—

Mr. Roy: A lot of Tories are mad at the Ombudsman these days.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, no; he has more difficulty with the Liberals than with us.

I will have to check and I'll endeavour to answer the hon. member tomorrow.

Mr. Stong: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: While the Premier is checking that, would he also check the date of June 27 past for a letter directed to the Minister of Housing from the Ombudsman? In view of those two letters, and in view of the fact that the select committee of the Ombudsman recommended a change in the constitution of the commission, and in view of the fact that those whose lands are most affected refuse to participate, as well as their lawyer, would the Premier explain why the government is so reluctant or afraid to expand the commission and proceed with a full investigation, rather than having the commission confine itself to proceeding in the narrow manner of an adversarial nature?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I really think the discussion with the Ombudsman didn't relate to any narrow sort of restriction whatsoever. I have a feeling, if memory serves me correctly, it was more a question of personalities. I will get out the correspondence and be delighted to inform the hon. member; but my best recollection is that it has been the counsel for those people who have interests before the commission who has decided not to appear, and I gather he made that very free choice by his own judgement. Certainly that is the impression I have had, but I will be delighted to get out the correspondence and tell the hon. member as much as I can.

Mr. Stong: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: This will have to be a final supplementary. We are running out of time and this is about the second supplementary now.

Mr. Stong: The Premier did not give an answer to the latter part of my question as to why the government is so reluctant to allow a full investigation of this situation, rather than have a commission proceed in an adversarial manner.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, my impression is—and it's only an impression; I must confess that I haven't been to any of the hearings, I haven't been part of any of the deliberations—but my impression is that the reference the commission is operating under relates to the agreement that was made between the Minister of Housing and the Ombudsman and I think with the concurrence of the committee. I think the hon. member will find that to be relatively accurate.

Now if the hon. member is suggesting that for some reason or other he now feels the terms of reference are too narrow, I haven't heard that issue raised. It may have been in one of Mr. Maloney's letters, I don't recall it. But I think, really, what the Ombudsman is endeavouring to raise is a question of people, not the structure or the reference.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I announced it as a final supplementary. I think we should get on with another question. The member for Carleton East.

BELLEVUE NURSING HOME

Ms. Gigantes: I have a question of the Minister of Health. I would like to ask him what provincial standards are supposed to apply to a residence such as Bellevue Residence, in Orleans, and if information I am receiving about Bellevue Residence, namely that there has been no qualified cook on staff over the last few weeks; that the residents are being served sausages, blood pudding and macaroni as a constant diet; that the septic tank system has been broken for several weeks; and that residents are being transferred to the Maclaren House Nursing Home, perhaps to increase per diem rates available to the operator of Bellevue Residence, Mr. Steve Bordo, who also happens to own the Maclaren home—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question please, thank you.

Ms. Gigantes: I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member, I think, has given enough background material. Would she please ask the question?

Ms. Gigantes: Yes, I would like to ask if this kind of information is of concern to him and what he'll do about it?

Mr. Roy: Sounds like the legislative dining room.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Naturally, Mr. Speaker, that series of allegations is of concern to me. I'll ask Mr. Corder, the head of our inspection branch, to report on it.

Mr. Deans: Would the member get the report?

Mr. Roy: Maybe you could send a cook from the legislative dining room there.

Mr. Deans: May we find out what is in the report?

AGRICULTURAL TRADE MISSIONS

Mr. McKessock: I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In view of the fact that this fall the International Trade Commission is planning a trade mission to several European countries, and in view of the fact that other provinces in Canada are financially supporting their provincial Hereford association to send a delegate to this mission, and in view of the fact that the minister has received a request from the Ontario Hereford Association for financial assistance to send a delegate from Ontario, is the ministry going to oblige by assisting the Ontario Hereford Association financially and thereby encouraging the export sales of Ontario livestock?

Interjection.

Hon. W. Newman: In answer to the hon. member's question, I do not recall getting the letter, although I have a great deal of respect for all the breed herds in the province of Ontario—and the Herefords, since I keep a few of them myself. But certainly we are very interested in promoting abroad our Ontario commodities and we will take care of that. We will not be sending an individual over.

Mr. Martel: More bull, Bill.

Mr. McKessock: Supplementary: In view of the fact that the Hereford association wants to send a delegation over—they don't want the government to—but they need at least \$2,500 to do this and other provinces, such as Alberta and Saskatchewan—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is that not part of the first question?

Mr. McKessock: —are giving far larger amounts, would the minister consider at least

giving this amount to allow Ontario to promote their export sales as other provinces are doing?

An hon. member: The Hereford breeders can do it themselves.

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure the breed association could do it themselves, but since I have not seen the letter as at this point in time, I will certainly give it consideration.

CONTAMINATION OF FISH

Ms. Bryden: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. With regard to the ministry's environmental health bulletin of June 30 on mercury in fish in the Muskoka lake area, which issues some warnings about consumption of fish with excessive mercury levels in five more Muskoka lakes in addition to the three that were covered by an earlier bulletin in February, what steps is the minister taking to publicize these warnings to the cottagers and other visitors to these lakes at this peak vacation time?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That press release went out to the media, was sent to the tourist association in the north, the hunting and fishing association of the province—

Mr. Renwick: Cottage grapevine.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —and it was sent to the weeklies in the area. It gets very wide publicity.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary: the bulletin also refers to advice on consumption limits to be issued by the occupational health branch of the Ministry of Labour. Can the minister tell us when this advice will be available and how it will be publicized?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That information will be included not only in the bulletins from the Ministry of Labour but also in the Ministry of Health guidebook which is expected to be out this month. We have that information and it contains more detailed information than the bulletins themselves. If anybody asks for it, that's available as well.

INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. G. I. Miller: I also have a question for the Minister of the Environment. He is well aware there is a problem of disposing industrial liquid waste. I was wondering if the minister has records of how much industrial liquid waste is being produced in Ontario at the present time, how much is being recycled and what the capacity is of the Tricil plant at Mississauga?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The hon. member gave me some notice of this question, for which I

thank him. There are about 40 million gallons per year of industrial liquid waste generated in the province. The Tricil plants—there are two plants, one in Mississauga and the other in Moore township—are handling approximately 25 million gallons of this. There's also a plant in Hamilton; and of course there's the industrial liquid waste sanitary fill operation at the site at Beare Road.

As far as recycling is concerned, it is difficult to give the hon. member an accurate figure. About six companies are involved in the general recycling of organic and inorganic industrial liquid waste. It is being recycled in the metalworking and finishing industries; it is used for phosphorous removal in municipal plants; and the oil refining industry has developed technology to reclaim spent caustic soda, presently remarketing this reclaimed material to the kraft pulping industry. The reason we don't have an accurate estimate of this is because recycled waste does not constitute a disposal problem, therefore it hasn't been entirely documented.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Supplementary: Does the minister not feel that it is the responsibility of the ministry itself to recycle, to take care of the waste?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I don't think it is the government's responsibility to build plants to handle industrial liquid waste—if that is the question.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Doesn't that differ considerably from the position the minister took in 1972, at which time he said, I believe, that if private industry was unable or unwilling to go ahead and provide the recycling operations, the province would move in? Why has it not moved in, since it is obvious that private industry is unable to do the job, though it may well be willing?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: They are not unable and they are not unwilling. The fact is—if the hon. member had listened to the answer I just gave—both the Tricil plants are under capacity at the present time, they can handle more waste. It's a question of whether or not this waste will be disposed on land or whether it will be disposed in plants where the cost to the haulers and to the companies is higher.

Mr. Deans: What is the cost of the alternative to the public?

[3:15]

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I realize that. The answer is to make sure that we enforce our regulations and make certain that the plants that exist at the present time are being utilized by the companies that are generating this waste.

One of the problems is the question of distance. If you have a plant, for example in Mississauga, and if you have another plant very close, such as in Hamilton, because of the lack of volume there isn't enough business to keep both of them going. If the government got involved in this business and competed with private industry, private industry would probably go out of business and we would end up subsidizing disposal of industrial waste.

Mr. Deans: So you would rather just dump it.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No, that was the final supplementary.

HUDAC PROGRAM

Mr. Breaugh: I'd like to ask the Minister of Housing, because we're perhaps adjourning shortly, to table either today or tomorrow the information the cabinet used in deciding to disburse \$600,000 to the HUDAC deposit fund to rescue those citizens in the Sherwood Properties development. I'd like to ask him to table the information on which that decision was made so that we may understand how it was made. Secondly, I'd like to ask him to make a slightly more definitive statement as to when that deposit fund will be extended and what the terms of that will be.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I don't understand the hon. member's question as to when the deposit fund will be extended. The fund has been established, it is now a part of the warranty program. As I indicated in a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations will be working with the board of the warranty program to bring the continuation of that program into being. I also mentioned in the statement—and I trust the hon. member has a copy of it—that there will be an increase in the insurance premium, to continue that fund to protect persons whose units have been purchased prior to January 1, 1977, when the warranty program came into being, and whose deeds were not registered.

We realize that that is going to be a declining number. It will be only those prior to January 1, 1977; those after that automatically fall into the regular program.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary: The minister did not indicate whether he would or would not table the information he presented to cabinet upon which that decision was made. Would he be good enough to explain to us why he coughed up \$600,000 without knowing how that money would be spent?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'll get what information I can for the hon. member to make available to him. I will give what I can to him because some of it was dealt with in cabinet and is not necessarily going to be made available.

Mr. Breagh: I thought so.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: I'm sorry, what was the latter part of the question?

Mr. Breagh: Why did the minister cough up \$600,000 before he knew how the money would be spent?

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: We understood exactly what the money was going to be spent for. It was for the purpose of protecting those persons who had purchased condominium units prior to January 1, 1977, and whose deeds had not been registered.

RONTO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Mr. Sargent: I have a question for the provincial Treasurer. I am sorry to flog this, but I have to get it off my mind. Last Tuesday I asked the minister why he concealed from the House the fact that he offered to secure a \$2 million tax exemption for the Todghams—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think that's imputing a motive which the hon. member should withdraw. He may ask a proper question after he withdraws this.

Mr. Sargent: My question is why he concealed from the House that he had this knowledge, yet the only way—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That's an improper motive to assess against anyone.

Mr. Sargent: Why he didn't reveal it then.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member take his seat in the first place. The hon. member is obviously imputing a motive to another member of this House, and he should withdraw that. If he hurries, we may still get in his proper question. If he will withdraw that imputation of motive then we will carry on.

Mr. Sargent: I withdraw that, Mr. Speaker. I say to the minister why did he not reveal to the House the fact that he is quoted in the Globe and Mail as telling the Todghams that he saw no problem in getting them a \$2 million exemption? Then on April 21 he wrote a letter to Douglas Todgham and advised him that the cabinet had now granted the exemption that day. I ask him why he did not reveal this fact to the House; that he set up the exemption and did not tell the public accounts committee and had to be subpoenaed before a judicial inquiry so this information would come out?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: Mr. Speaker, my answer is the same as it was on Tuesday. This matter is before a judicial inquiry and I leave it at that.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Mr. Sargent: I have a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a point of order?

Mr. Sargent: Yes, I do. Last Tuesday the Treasurer told me he would debate this in front of the television cameras outside. I waited for 38 minutes and he didn't show up. He hid behind the curtains.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a point of order. The hon. member will take his seat.

An hon. member: He didn't say that at all.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: In speaking to the point of order, I did not say any such thing.

Mr. Speaker: I declared there was no point of order.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I have no intention of debating this matter with the hon. member. If the hon. member wants to repeat—

Mr. Sargent: You said you would. You are a chicken.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: If the hon. member wants to repeat before the cameras the charges and the innuendoes which he made in this House he may do so and he will hear from me then.

Mr. Sargent: Come on right out now and do it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sargent: When are you going to?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: You're on your own. You're a big boy, go on your own.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Not together, you first.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: You are not fooling around with Singer now.

Mr. Roy: The meeting is at dawn, choose your weapons.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member for Grey-Bruce retain his seat? The hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton has a point, I believe.

QUESTIONS ON ORDER PAPER

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. It follows the remarks of the Premier that information from the ministries is readily available to the members.

I would like to say that I have a question on the order paper concerning Browndale, which was first tabled on March 31, as does the hon. member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell). The interim answer indicated that an

answer to my inquiry would be given but did not specify when. I placed my question on the table again on June 27 and it would appear that the government intends to ignore it. Will you rule on whether or not the government is circumventing the spirit or letter of the new House rules?

Mr. Speaker: I will have to consider all of the implications of that but, briefly, if the question was placed again on—

Mr. Eakins: The 27th.

Mr. Speaker: —the 27th, I think there's a period of time in which some interim answer must be forthcoming, or a reason for not responding. The two weeks are about up, so I'm sure the hon. minister, whichever one it was, will be guided by that and your words will be taken to heart. We'll expect an interim response in the meantime.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to rise on a point of privilege in a similar vein. I'd like to draw your attention to the fact that I have now had on the order paper, since March 31, a series of questions relating to the operations of the Urban Transportation Development Corporation; and while an interim answer, indicating that more time was required, was given in April, it would appear now, sir, that the government has no intention of answering these questions, which I again tabled on June 27. I would ask you to rule whether or not it is your opinion that the government is thwarting the spirit of the new rules of the House.

Mr. Speaker: I can't rule on that but I'm sure that the hon. member's words will be taken to heart. There are still a few more days before the two weeks are up and I would trust that the hon. minister, or at least the appropriate ministry, will take heed.

Hon. Mr. Welch: This is a new Parliament.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are having to research it all over again.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, it's very difficult to talk when there are so many interjections.

Petitions.

Presenting reports.

MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the first four members having precedence in the ballot for private members' public business shall be authorized to file designated bills or resolutions with the Clerk of the House on or before Thursday, September 1, and the Clerk is authorized to print and distribute these bills as zero-zero bills to all recipients

of bills. The designated bills shall be introduced on the first day after the summer recess in the regular way by the members concerned and shall be ordered for debate, notwithstanding the provisions of sessional order 36.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch moved first reading of Bill 47, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act.

Motion agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch moved first reading of Bill 48, An Act to amend The Legislative Retirement Allowances Act, 1973.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved first reading of Bill 49, An Act respecting Municipal Elections.

Motion agreed to.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Mr. Lawlor moved first reading of Bill 50, An Act to provide for Freedom of Information.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lawlor: The purpose of this bill is to provide members of the public with access to government information. The bill is designed to allow maximum accessibility to government documents while at the same time recognizing that it is in the public interest that certain types of information not be disclosed. Where a disagreement arises as to whether or not certain information should be disclosed, the bill provides a mechanism for resolving the dispute.

CLASS ACTIONS ACT

Mr. Lawlor moved first reading of Bill 51, An Act to provide for Class Actions.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lawlor: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide a statutory procedure whereby one or more persons may sue a defendant in the form of a class action. The bill is designed to achieve this purpose by

permitting a person who wishes to sue on behalf of a class to apply for a court order authorizing the class action. Once the order is obtained, the action proceeds as a class action and the final judgement fines all members of the class, except those who have been excluded, as well as the parties to the action. [3:30]

OCCUPIERS' LIABILITY ACT

Mr. Lawlor moved first reading of Bill 52, An Act respecting Occupiers' Liability.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lawlor: The bill replaces the common law as to an occupier's duty of care, replacing the common law distinctions between duties to invitees, licensees, trespassers and child trespassers, with one common duty of care applied to the circumstances of each case. The bill is in the form recommended by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved first reading of Bill 53, An Act to amend The Consumer Protection Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. B. Newman: This bill requires that every product offered for sale by a retailer that is marked with the universal product code must also be clearly marked with its individual purchase price. This would ensure the rights of the consumer to the privilege of comparison shopping by requiring individual item pricing.

FAMILY BENEFITS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Martel moved first reading of Bill 54, An Act to amend The Family Benefits Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martel: The purpose of the amendment is to remove any reference to the sex of the parent, thereby enabling either the mother or the father of the child to be eligible for benefits.

Mr. Speaker: Just before the orders of the day, I would announce to the House that I am today tabling copies of the allowances paid to members for accommodation and travel, legislative office expenses and constituency office expenses for the fiscal year 1976-77.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

FARM PRODUCTS PAYMENTS ACT

Hon. W. Newman moved second reading of Bill 45, An Act to amend The Farm Products Payments Act.

Mr. Riddell: Needless to say, this bill is long overdue, in light of the fact that there have been a number of bankruptcies in the processing industry over the last 10 years which have lead to tremendous financial losses to the farmers.

To be more specific, the livestock and poultry producers, as well as the community sales barns, have lost \$425,000 over the last 10 years. Fruit and vegetable growers have lost \$770,000, and the dairy producers have lost in the neighbourhood of \$155,000. So really it is time that this government did something about protecting the farmers against the risk of the marketplace.

This bill arises out of the financial protection task force report. As the Minister of Agriculture and Food has stated, it will make it possible for farm commodity groups to set up producer and buyer commodity groups to protect the producers from financial loss in the case of bankruptcies in the agricultural industry.

We recognize the Act as being permissive legislation enabling the government to act by regulation. This Act itself will not provide the financial protection, and again it must be done by regulation.

I repeat that it is inexcusable that the government has delayed for so long in bringing this legislation forward. I think there is no question that a farmer has the right to expect full payment for the products of his labour. But in the past there have been innumerable instances where this has not been the case. The financial protection task force report details these losses and states that losses to Ontario farmers attributed to bankruptcies in the last 10 years have totalled \$1.35 million.

I'm happy to see that the minister has finally seen fit to bring in legislation to ensure that farmers in this province are protected in these instances. But it's rather too bad that we have to deal with important pieces of legislation in such haste. The bill was introduced yesterday. We're giving it second reading today. I personally feel that we must deal with it before this session of the Legislature recesses—for very obvious reasons. But certainly the farm organizations have not had an opportunity to peruse the bill and give us the benefit of any comments which they wish to make on it.

Farmers must often operate on a principle of trust in the sale of their products. It is often very difficult for a farmer to evaluate a buyer's ability to pay. This legislation can go far in eliminating this risk, but as I have stated it is only enabling legislation and I would hope that the regulations pertaining

to it are introduced quickly. I believe the two major priorities which are both contained in the enabling legislation and which require immediate action are a requirement for prompt payment and the licensing of processors who purchase farm products.

As the task force report points out, the longer the period between the transfer of ownership and transfer of funds, the greater the risk of financial default. I would agree that the period of payment would vary with the commodity, but there are very few areas, as the task force report points out, where the period cannot be reduced for the purpose of improving financial security for farmers without imposing any undue hardship on buyers.

We support the concept of this legislation, which can go far in helping to protect our farmers from undue losses. But we can only regret that it has taken this government so long in bringing this type of legislation forward.

I did appreciate the opportunity to discuss this bill with the minister early this morning. My colleague from York South (Mr. MacDonald) and I were invited to the minister's office to talk it over with the legal counsel there and the minister. The meeting was at 8:30 this morning. That's typical of the early hour that we farmers manage to get started—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Eight-thirty? You think that's early?

Mr. Renwick: I have three hours' work in by that time.

Mr. Riddell: I guess I can include the member for York South in that as well.

Mr. MacDonald: The urban farmer was on time. The rural farmer was late.

Mr. Riddell: But since talking to the minister I did have occasion to speak to the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and from the vague knowledge that he had about the bill and from my explanation of it, he said that certainly as far as he is concerned the federation supports the concept of the bill, recognizing of course that it is enabling legislation. He did indicate that he would have liked to have received more specific information on it but realized that each commodity group would be different, that is pertaining to crop payment times, and so on.

Some of the questions he had in his mind concerned levels at which commodities are to be covered. The minister indicated this morning in our discussions with him that he was going to pretty well leave that to the different commodity groups. I believe he

stated he wouldn't like to see the level exceed 80 per cent.

In my opinion, and I believe Mr. Hannan agrees with me, we should endeavour to get a commitment that would even reach the 90 per cent level; I don't think 90 per cent is unrealistic. I know what the minister's thinking is. He feels we might run into some slipshod businesses if we were to guarantee too high a level. I would like to know what his comment is on 90 per cent coverage.

Section 5(4) of The Farm Products Payments Act states that a board may pay into the consolidated revenue funds any surplus moneys in its fund that are not necessary for the current requirements of the board. My question in this connection always has been why should the funds go back into the consolidated revenue fund? Why not leave these funds in the commodity fund? This would then enable us to reduce the premiums the producers or the processors would have to pay.

Once again, I simply want to reiterate that we support this legislation. I hope we will go forward with the regulations in due haste, in light of recent events and the financial difficulties some of the processors and packing plants are facing today.

Mr. MacDonald: Last week I asked the minister a question as to whether or not he was contemplating bringing in legislation to provide farmers with the guarantee that they weren't going to suffer losses through the bankruptcy of those to whom they had sold their product. He indicated that that was in the mill, so to speak, and he hoped to have it introduced before this session was over. Obviously, therefore, I welcome this legislation.

Indeed I not only welcome it but with a degree of concern I urge that the House give it passage immediately, because quite frankly I think we would be neglecting our duty if we didn't pass this bill and have it in effect before we leave for a summer recess.

There is one small packing house or processor that has gone bankrupt in very recent days, fortunately, I am informed, with no losses to the farmers. There is another one that is allegedly in difficulties. That kind of situation is surely enough of a warning that we move before a few more horses escape from the barn, so to speak. I welcome the introduction of the bill and on behalf of the New Democratic Party I indicate to the minister that we will be willing to support it.

The principle of the bill is a fairly straightforward one. It provides enabling legislation

for each commodity group to move in and, in conjunction with the buyers of that commodity, provide the necessary moneys for establishing a fund. The government is going to provide seed moneys of up to \$25,000, depending on the size of the commodity sales, in order to get this kind of process in operation as quickly as possible.

One of the basic moves that makes all of this effective, in the view of the agricultural community, is that the government is going to license dealers, license those who are involved in this process, and therefore will have some control over the situation. If some individual involved is not living up to the Act, there is a very simple way of coping with the situation; he just becomes unlicensed, loses his licence and therefore you have protected the farmer from any further operations by a person whose financial security is in question.

[3:45]

There is one aspect of the bill, Mr. Speaker, that in general terms concerns me. That is that generally speaking I am not in favour of bills that resort so widely, so extensively, to the use of regulations. However, in this instance I think it is perhaps much more justified than might normally be the case. Here once again we face a well known fact in the agricultural community; that is that you have such a fantastic diversity, not only in the number of products that are going to be marketed but in the condition in relation to each one of those products. Therefore, the only way in which one can cope effectively and realistically with those differing conditions is through regulations that will make it possible for each one of the commodity groups with supervision by the government through the Act, to cope with those varying situations.

As I've indicated, the government is going to be putting in seed money up to \$25,000 to get each one of these funds in operation, but the remainder of the moneys are going to be raised through a fee which will be levied on the producer and on the buyer of the product. In the first instance, the decision with regard to this, as well as to many other things, is going to be left to negotiations between the commodity group and others with whom they are going to be dealing. There is always the possibility that the packing houses, for example, are going to object to the levying of any fee, as happened in years gone by when a comparable kind of approach was made in the milk industry. The Act therefore gives the government the residual power to fix a fee if

there is not an agreement voluntarily entered into between the sellers and the buyers. That, I think, is necessary, because obviously there may be circumstances in which the negotiations will go on so long as to frustrate the whole objective of the Act.

I just want to add a word about the limits of liability that the hon. member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) referred to. That is, once again, going to be spelled out in the regulations. The amendment here is an amendment to section 8 of the original Act, and section 8 deals with regulations. It gives the minister power for, to quote it exactly, "limiting the amounts that may be paid out of a fund to any producer or class thereof, or respecting any dealer or class thereof."

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, if the minister has some indication as to what the limits are going to be, that it is only fair that that should be indicated publicly; either in a statement in the House, or perhaps even more preferably in the regulations. There may be varying levels in some instances in which some commodities would want a higher level than another. They are going to negotiate and they have the right to make that negotiation, but it seems to me that it is only, well, common sense if I may put it that bluntly, to indicate something about the parameters the minister is willing to tolerate. After all, it would be rather foolish to permit negotiations in the acceptance of a figure and then have the minister, after the event, intervene and in effect indicate his displeasure and rescind or overrule what has been done.

On the prompt payment aspect of it I was interested, in speaking to a number of farm groups, and particularly having the benefit of a recent visit from the Cattlemen's Association, to learn from them that they felt that licensing was the first step that was required and prompt payment the next step. In many instances these steps would meet the greater part of the problem. Once again, prompt payment is going to be a matter subject to regulation by each of the individual funds set up by commodity groups, because of the fact that in some instances "prompt" has a different definition. The Cattlemen's Association, for instance, when they were meeting with us, defined "prompt" payment as being within 48 hours, which limits the time in which a farmer would possibly be losing the value of the cattle they had sold. In other instances, for example dealing with tender fruit, "prompt" payment would have a far different definition because the farmer is not interested, and hasn't operated on the

basis of seeking a payment within, say a 48-hour period. But once again, it seems to me that "prompt" payment tied in with the licensing is getting at much of the problem. The fund is just to catch the residue of other failures that may have emerged.

One could go on, I suppose, at considerable length, talking about principles that flow from the many details in this bill. I'm not going to do so this afternoon because I think no particular purpose is going to be served. The food producers of the province of Ontario have lived with many hazards, both in the production and the marketing of their food. I would join with the hon. member for Huron-Middlesex in saying that it's a little overdue, but welcome nonetheless, that this hazard is going to be eliminated. At least when the food producer has sold his product and sold it in good faith he is not going to face the prospect of not getting the money he's entitled to because of the bankruptcy of the firm to which he has sold that product.

Mr. Gaunt: I want to make a few brief comments with respect to this bill. I along with the other two members who have spoken, certainly endorse wholeheartedly the principle of the bill. I think that it's long overdue, and it's certainly a welcome feature of this particular legislative session that the minister has seen fit to bring it in at this time, albeit right at the end of the session.

During the election campaign which we recently endured, I had occasion in two instances to talk about the need for such legislation, and I did so against the background of having undergone and suffered with a number of producers who were hurt very severely when Essex Packers defaulted and went into receivership. We had some farmers in our area who were hurt badly. One in particular, I believe, ultimately went into bankruptcy because of it. He suffered a severe loss, something in the neighbourhood of \$20,000, which was really the straw that broke the camel's back.

When we were in discussion on one occasion—this was at an all-candidates meeting—the matter of prompt payment arose. We had a discussion at that time on how an Act would work with respect to prompt payment. Under the conditions as set out in this legislation—I believe we were talking about beef—the Ontario Cattlemen's Association would operate the fund, and the regulations the minister would draw up would pertain to the marketing of beef and prompt payment with respect to beef. The point I want to make is: If prompt payment is required on the part of a packing house where a farmer sells cattle directly to the plant, then to be fair the

prompt payment would also have to be a requirement of the legislation insofar as the chain store is concerned—the chain store, to the packing plant, to the farmer. Unless that requirement is built into the legislation there's a possibility that it would put packing firms in a very difficult position, because they are not in a position to require prompt payment from the chain store which buys from the packing plant.

If the packing plant has to pay the farmer within 48 hours, as the Ontario Cattlemen's Association has recommended—or in the case of a weekend the following working day, I believe; if the cattle were shipped on the Friday then payment would be required the following Monday—if that is the case with the packing firm, is there going to be any regulation having to do with prompt payment by the chain store which happens to buy that meat from the packing plant? If not, then I suggest to the minister that this legislation will effectively cut out direct sales from the farmer to the packing plant, because the packing plant really won't want to take the chance of operating under the requirement to pay the farmer within the 48 hours and then assume the risk of not being paid by the buyer of their meat for perhaps two, three or four weeks.

Perhaps the ministry has given some thought to that and maybe the regulations will cover that problem. I raise it with the minister because I haven't had any indication that that problem would be dealt with and I wonder if any thought has been given to it.

In summary, I certainly support wholeheartedly the principles of the bill in the terms outlined by my colleague from Huron-Middlesex and my friend from York South. I endorse it. I support it wholeheartedly and it's just unfortunate we didn't have it much sooner.

Hon. W. Newman: I appreciate the comments from my friends across the way, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to point out that as a result of the problems we ran into way back with Essex Packers, and as a result of being unable at that point in time to get any amendments to The Bank Act, I set up a financial protection task force to look into ways and means of trying to protect the producers from bankruptcy. Even though only \$70 in every \$1 million of sales was lost over the last 10 years, and that may not sound like a lot of money, it severely hurt the individuals who were actually affected, which was pointed out by the member for Huron-Bruce, who said that an individual could be hurt very severely.

As a result of that task force, which was set up not too long ago, and as a result of their recommendations, we have this legislation before us today. As for the regulations we were talking about, I think it is very important to leave it open for the various commodity groups we have, because each commodity group probably will want to operate on a little different basis as far as the time-frame for prompt payment is concerned.

The hon. member asked me at what level the payout should be. I would like to indicate that I would want to consult with each commodity group as to what the level of payout should be. It could vary from commodity to commodity, but I would think it could be between 65 per cent and 90 per cent depending on the commodity. I have a lot of respect for our commodity groups; they are self-elected people in their own area of interest, so they have a pretty good idea of how they feel it should work. We want to leave that open to negotiation.

I talked to the president of the Federation of Agriculture as late as 1:50 p.m. today—and I do apologize for being a little late in getting this bill in. It is a matter that has to go through the due process, and I am very thankful I was able to get it brought in. I also appreciate the co-operation of the other two parties in letting me bring this forward, because I think it's important that we proceed with our negotiations with the various commodity groups now so we can get the regulations in place.

One of the things the hon. member talked about was prompt payment as well as licensing; and, yes, I met with the Ontario Cattlemen's Association last week also, I also think that a fund should be built up in each commodity group. As the hon. member knows, of course, the fund can build up to a certain level and, when it reaches that desired level, then there can no longer be any payments by the producers or by the processors.

There were one or two questions that were brought up by the member for Huron-Middlesex; I think I've covered them. The level of coverage, as I have said, would be somewhere between 65 per cent and 90 per cent, depending on the commodity.

[4:00]

As far as the consolidated revenue fund is concerned, which he mentioned we would administer, as he well knows, the fund for the various commodity groups; and yes, the money would be in the consolidated revenue fund, but I believe the consolidated revenue

fund would be paying interest on that particular fund.

The member for York South brought up, basically, some of the same ideas. On the \$25,000 seed money; yes, this is to encourage the commodity boards to get into it.

One thing that hasn't been mentioned, there is an interest-free loan provision in this bill, that until the necessary funds are built up to the acceptable levels by the commodity boards there would be loans made available from the consolidated revenue fund of up to \$250,000 to deal with any particular bankruptcy that may occur before the funds are built up.

The member for Huron-Bruce brought up another situation which we have considered but is not in this bill. That is the prompt payment, as he says from the chain store back to the packing plants. This bill is designed to protect the producers of the province. When we get into that next sphere, we're also into the area of responsibility of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and in order to get this bill under way, certainly that would not come under my jurisdiction. This bill is primarily set up to deal with the producers in this province. I'm hopeful that we can move forward fairly quickly with the regulations of the various groups once we can get this bill passed, because I think it's very important. I don't apologize for the delay. I think since I've been in the ministry we've set up this task force and we have brought in the report. We've tried repeatedly for many years to get The Bank Act changed to make farmers primary creditors and, to this point in time we have been unable to do that; thus we're bringing forward this legislation which is a vehicle to build on with regulations for the various commodity groups.

I do appreciate the members' feeling on the bill, Mr. Speaker. I think it's a good bill, and hopefully we can get it sorted out before we leave here.

Mr. Sargent: I wonder if the minister would answer a question? I'm sorry I was late getting back in.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Would you make the question very brief?

Mr. Sargent: I have heard three of my colleagues speak on this. In view of the fact that Essex Packers had a \$23,000 cheque for a young chap which he never collected—they forced him into bankruptcy and he's lost everything—is there any way the minister can make this reciprocal? Or retroactive, I'm sorry.

Hon. W. Newman: No, it cannot be made retroactive. This bill will take effect from the day it receives royal assent. Nobody is more concerned about some of those producers who took a beating. I know, I have a list of them. Once we get this regulation in place, this sort of thing will not happen.

Mr. Sargent: May I have a supplementary, again?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'm sorry, no. The motion is for second reading of Bill 45. Is it the pleasure of the House the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall this bill be ordered for third reading?

Agreed.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion: Bill 45, An Act to amend The Farm Products Payments Act.

MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT (continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 21, An Act to establish the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I believe the member for Nickel Belt was prepared with his remarks.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I shall, with a great deal of self-discipline, restrain myself in both the length of time—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Oh don't do that, don't disappoint me.

Mr. Laughren: —and the heat of my arguments.

I thought that the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) made a good point in his remarks when he talked about the introduction of this bill being a signal that the government had failed in so many other areas in northern Ontario, because as I read through the bill I don't see a single thing in this bill that could not be done by existing ministries. That is why we, in this caucus, looked long and hard at the bill, and even had some spirited discussions about this bill to establish a Ministry of Northern Affairs.

We don't make these decisions lightly, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the minister realizes that. We had to be very careful that this bill would not be a window-dressing bill and used as an election ploy in the recent provincial election.

Mr. Sargent: They are going to make him Premier of Northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We will accept responsibility.

Mr. Laughren: And yes, you certainly will accept responsibility.

An hon. member: You should.

Mr. Laughren: The minister will, that's correct. He will accept responsibility for what he continues not to do in northern Ontario. He will have no options over that.

I want to tell you something, Mr. Speaker. Last night during the debate the minister-elect of northern affairs continually referred to the seats the government had gained in northern Ontario. I want to tell you that if the minister thinks those victories were a blanket endorsement of government policy in northern Ontario, he is going to have a rude awakening in the months and the years to come. Because, Mr. Speaker, this bill is the kind of thing that raises the expectations of people in northern Ontario and when the minister doesn't meet those expectations, which he has caused to rise, then he is going to be in real trouble in northern Ontario, even more than he is at the present time.

An hon. member: Right on.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Thirty-four years, boy.

Mr. Laughren: And I would remind the minister that the proportion of seats that the government holds in the north is nothing that it should be proud of as the government of this province.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You would love to have a majority.

Mr. Laughren: Well, we would love to have a majority government—

Mr. Martel: You would love to have a majority too, Leo.

Mr. Laughren: You would too.

Mr. Mackenzie: As a matter of fact, that's the only reason you called the election and it didn't work.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Nice try.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address myself to a couple of possibilities that this bill offers to the Minister of Northern Affairs and I hope that he will listen carefully.

I think there are two areas in which we in northern Ontario feel there are very serious problems. One is the provision or delivery of services to people; the other is economic development. The two are related. We make a serious mistake—and I think this is where the government has failed in the past; they have tended to regard the two as two separate worlds and surely there's the relationship, or at least should be, between economic

development and the provision or delivery of services to people.

In the delivery of services, once again we have two different kinds of problems. One is delivery of services in the established communities—such as Sudbury, or North Bay, or Thunder Bay, or Sault Ste. Marie and so forth—and you have the small unorganized communities in northern Ontario.

When we talk about the buildup areas like Sudbury, it's an indication that something is wrong when we have a region as rich in resources as the Sudbury region with a \$30 million backlog in services. This is services to existing communities. I am not talking about laying sewer and water lines in the ground in the York-Durham region the way they have done, but to established communities.

The Minister of Northern Affairs simply must address himself to that problem. We have today in the Sudbury area people who in the wintertime melt snow in order to have water to drink and to wash with and in the summertime haul water in from a fire hydrant. It is a pretty sad commentary that in established communities in northern Ontario, in communities as rich as the regional municipality of Sudbury—and that's within the regional municipality of Sudbury—we have a \$30 million backlog of services and at the same time \$130 million debt that has been assumed by the region.

The minister is simply going to have to investigate what it is that allowed that to happen in an area that's created so much wealth for the people of Ontario, all over Ontario. Also he should talk to the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) and to the Minister of Revenue (Mrs. Scrivener) about assessment policies, because what's happening in places like Sudbury, in a resource-based community with mining installations within its borders, is that there's very little relationship between capital investment in the community and assessment revenues.

That has simply got to change. We can no longer have, as we have had in the last few years, over \$1 billion of assessment come into the Sudbury area in about a five-year period, and yet have the debt increasing while that's happening so there's almost an inverse relationship between capital investment and the assessment that is available to the municipality for taxing purposes.

One reason for that is the way the mining industry is taxed so that there is very little left in the form of buildings that are of substantial value that can be taxed. The minister simply has to convince his cabinet colleagues that there are other ways of assessing the mining industry. They have done it other

ways in British Columbia, in Manitoba and in Alberta. It can be done here, but it is going to take a great deal of pressure from the Minister of Northern Affairs.

The Treasurer has been told this and the Minister of Revenue has been told this many times. International Nickel in the Sudbury area has said let us pay more of our revenues to the local area. I hope the minister will lean on his colleagues to see if that can be accomplished.

On the whole question of jobs in northern Ontario, at this time, in the latest figures I saw, northeastern Ontario had the highest unemployment rate of any region in Ontario. This is an area that is very rich in resources. The northeastern part is the resource heart of all of Ontario, and here we have a very unacceptable unemployment level. We don't have to look very far to see that.

We know that productivity in both the mining and the lumbering industries has increased substantially, the minister knows this. The tons of ore produced per employee has gone up dramatically in the last 10 years by making the industry more capital intensive. The same applies to the lumbering industry. While there is nothing wrong with making an industry capital intensive, at the same time we must develop some kind of economic policy that will provide alternative employment for those people; and that's not happening now. The minister and his colleagues have simply done nothing to encourage the further processing of our resources in the north. As a matter of fact, this is what bothers me so much. This is the same minister who in December, 1975, granted Falconbridge an indefinite extension of their right to ship nickel to Norway for further processing and, as though to compound the injury, to write off those processing costs against their Ontario operations.

Mr. Warner: Absolutely shameful.

Mr. Laughren: That's still going on. Falconbridge is not a penurious little struggling local enterprise. It is part of a large multinational conglomerate. They have been in the Sudbury basin for 45 years and have had every opportunity to build a refinery and process nickel there. The government makes the problem worse. This is what is bothering me. We simply have to look to the minister to turn those policies around. We are bothered because they were his policies to start with. He is going to have to admit he was wrong and change some of those policies. I don't know if he is big enough to do that, quite frankly.

Mr. Martel: And they expand in Norway.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, that's correct. They expand their refinery in Norway.

Mr. Warner: Cleanse your soul by resigning. It will make you feel better.

Mr. Laughren: We are not dealing in a closed economy any more. The multinational resources corporations wheel and deal all around the world. If they can hold up the minister for ransom, they will do it. We simply must have the resolve collectively to resist that. We believe it can be done.

Just before I leave that, there is no better example of what this government allows to happen than what happened in the riding of Timiskaming, in the small town of Matatchewan, when the United Abestos plant closed. When I hear this minister, along with the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Havrot), blaming the New Democratic Party for closing the United Asbestos mine, I think that politics has reached a new and lower level.

That's a shabby kind of politics. The member for Timiskaming promised during the campaign that he would see that that mine was reopened. When I asked the Premier today that very question, he avoided it entirely, because you know and I know he has no intentions of opening that mine.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The local people spoke on June 9.

Mr. Laughren: Don't give me that. We are talking about the principle of telling the truth. That's what we are talking about, and you are not telling it when you imply to the people that that mine will be reopened. That's not telling them the truth. Why don't you talk to the member for Timiskaming and tell him that?

Interjections.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please, the interjections are out of order. Will the hon. member continue his debate without any interjections from the minister or other hon. members?

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to have an ally.

I would just pursue that one bit further because it is one of the problems that this bill doesn't address itself to, which is an indirect way of saying I am still speaking to the principle of the bill. It's simply not right. I talked about raising people's expectations, and that's what the minister and the member for Timiskaming are doing when they talk about reopening a mine, when they are not prepared to go in there with public money and take part of the action in the form of an equity position in that company. The government is not prepared to do that. You

and I know, Mr. Speaker, that that mine was closed because it was over-capitalized, and the Mercantile Bank is the first one to admit that.

I would like to hear the minister's response to that particular part of my remarks, because I think it is time the people of Timiskaming were told the truth. I would like to hear them told the truth on this particular issue. It would be very interesting to see whether or not the government is prepared to do that—

[4:15]

Mr. Warner: The government never—

Mr. Laughren: —or whether it is going to continue to, shall I say, fudge the issue. I'll be very interested in hearing the minister's response.

Now I'd like to speak briefly about the small unorganized communities in the north, Mr. Speaker. I know the Speaker has a considerable interest in them as well. A couple of years ago there was a bill introduced by the Treasurer, but it was this minister who shepherded the bill through the cabinet.

Mr. Martel: Railroaded.

Mr. Laughren: Railroaded, yes. And Bill 102 was a bill to recognize councils or community organizations in the small communities of northern Ontario that have no municipal stature at all.

The government established a couple of civil servants who tripped all across northern Ontario and held meetings in all of those communities. They found out that the problems were so enormous and the costs to rectify the problems so high, that they let the bill die on the order paper. To this day, small unorganized communities have no normal route through which provincial funds are transferred into their communities.

Mr. Warner: It is unorganized government.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, can you imagine the community that you represent existing without provincial grants? The people in organized communities don't seem to understand that very often—

Mr. Sargent: That's one guy that's loaded up there.

Mr. Laughren: Well, he wouldn't be without provincial grants to his municipality. And to this day—last night, I almost stood up on a point of order. I almost accused the minister of misleading the House, but I didn't.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Almost.

Mr. Laughren: I restrained myself.

Mr. Martel: Unlike you.

Mr. Laughren: Because the minister implied—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You mislead the House. I bring it to order.

Mr. Laughren: The minister implied last night that there were funds available for fire protection for the unorganized communities. That was a—he really did mislead us. You know why? Because there are some funds available for some communities—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will not accuse another hon. member of misleading the House, and I would ask him to withdraw that remark.

Mr. Martel: You didn't do that the other night to the Minister of Revenue (Mrs. Scrivener). You play a funny game, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I don't know. It may not have been deliberate. But he sure did mislead the House. Well, it's true.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: On a point of order.

Mr. Breaugh: Are you going to do it again?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I cannot let this slide without commenting. I said last night that there were funds available to the unorganized communities for fire protection.

Mr. Martel: Some.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There is. It is available. Before the end of March this year alone, we disbursed to those unorganized communities over \$230,000 for the sole purpose of buying firefighting equipment, be it portable pumps, be it hoses, be it the erection of a fire station—all the things that relate to fire protection in unorganized areas.

If the hon. member has an unorganized community in his riding that's within the terms of reference of the Isolated Communities Assistance Fund and needs fire protection equipment, then I'd like to hear from him.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. That wasn't really a point of order. I would ask the hon. member to continue his debate and then the minister can respond at the end of the debate on second reading.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is handing us out—

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, point of order.

Mr. Acting Speaker: State your point of order.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, you had asked the member to withdraw his statement that he made with regard to the minister before

he continued. He has not withdrawn that statement and he hasn't complied with your instructions, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Germa: Are you in the chair?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. I have understood the hon. member to say that he was withdrawing it. Perhaps I wasn't listening closely.

Mr. Laughren: On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member wasn't listening closely.

What the minister has told us is total nonsense.

Mr. Gregory: Did you withdraw your comment?

Mr. Laughren: Let the member tell me then. Let him stand in his place, because I'll yield the floor to him. Let him stand in his place and tell me that there is fire assistance available for all unorganized communities that need it. Let him tell me that.

Mr. Pope: That isn't what you accused him of. You said there is no money.

Mr. Laughren: There is no program for firefighting protection in unorganized communities. And, as a matter of fact, the program to provide assistance in the purchase of smoke detectors was an insult.

Mr. Pope: Don't start weaseling out of what you said.

Mr. Laughren: Never, never.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: On a point of clarification. The Isolated Communities Assistance Fund was set up to assist unorganized communities, to assist them all.

Mr. Pope: He said none.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I met with the UCANO group—with UCANO East and UCANO West. We have been given \$250,000 in the last quarter of 1976-77.

Mr. Martel: That isn't even enough to buy the pails for them.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In 1977-78 we have \$500,000 to give out to the unorganized communities. We went to UCANO, and we said how should this be spent, and we agreed that the top priority would be fire protection in the form of smoke detectors which they would handle. The next phase of that program will be fire extinguishers on the same idea, and we have also dispersed direct grants—

Mr. Martel: Fire trucks?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes.

Mr. Martel: Yes, two of them.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, I would be glad to get the hon. member a list of the equipment we have sent out. I will get him a list of the

various communities we have assisted where there is a nucleus of a community organization. That is all we need. The application forms are there; they are very simple to fill out. In fact UCANO will help those people fill out the application forms, and we respond very quickly.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please, perhaps the hon. member would continue. Now that the record has been corrected on a point of order we can continue the debate and the hon. minister can respond at the end of second reading.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact still remains that to obtain assistance for fire protection in unorganized communities there is no automatic route to follow. There is no guarantee that any unorganized community will receive assistance for fire protection. There is no guarantee of that. But I am glad to hear the minister making some of the statements he is making today, because that means that the applications will roll in. I would be interested in receiving that list and comparing the list by riding.

The other thing is, of course, that fire protection is only one dimension of the problem. There is the whole question of health care, the delivery of health services in the small communities. That is sadly lacking, as are recreational facilities, as well. I think the minister understands the problems in the small unorganized communities. Perhaps he has been restricted by lack of funds in the past. I hope that will change. I emphasize, as strongly as I can, that what the small communities are asking for, and in some cases receiving, is nothing more than people in organized communities have received for years and years.

Those small communities aided in the development of this province, and they were very conveniently used in those days. Now, when their importance is declining in the overall economic scheme of things—now that the railroads aren't being used to develop the province and so forth—they are very quickly forgotten by this government. There needs to be an infusion of funds in there. And I really do emphasize that it is nothing more than the organized communities have just taken for granted. The small communities have a right to those funds.

The only other major thing I want to talk about is the whole question of the economic development of not just specific communities but all of northern Ontario. Certainly, the Sudbury and District Chamber of Commerce zeroed in on the problem very neatly in a document entitled *The Profile of Failure*.

This was a response prepared for the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs by the Sudbury and District Chamber of Commerce. And keep in mind, would you, that the Sudbury and District Chamber of Commerce has traditionally been a very strong ally of the government, and it's quite something for them to come to this position.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Who wrote the brief?

Mr. Martel: They never accepted my membership.

Mr. Laughren: I want to tell you something—it wasn't the New Democrats who had any say in this. Although, I would say that it is simply amazing what publicity the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce gets when it starts saying things that we in this chamber have been saying for 10 years. It is very gratifying, actually, to have a group—an august group such as the Sudbury and District Chamber of Commerce—come around to this point of view.

I would like to give you a couple of quotes, Mr. Speaker, because I know that you represent an area that flirts with the north and that you would be interested in this. This is the chamber of commerce's overview of the problem. They are referring to the north-eastern Ontario regional strategy which was the government's plan. They say:

"The northeastern Ontario regional strategy is devoid of any strategy of development, physical, economic or social. It represents the pinnacle of intellectual bankruptcy of the southern establishment in even analyzing the problems of the north, let alone dealing with them effectively. The only way to deal with a northeastern Ontario regional strategy is to let it terminate as an expensive receptacle of dust until it glides gracefully or otherwise into oblivion. The fundamental problem with northeastern Ontario regional strategy can be summed up as the troika of nos—no strategy, no analysis and no programs—and, therefore, no use."

Those are strong words for the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce. For any chamber of commerce, those are strong words. I give them credit for coming out foursquare and talking about development the way it needs to be talked about and talking to the minister in a language that perhaps he can understand. He understands those strong words, being a northerner, and I hope he will take them to heart.

The chamber went on and said many things. They said, for example: "On careful evaluation one has to conclude that the northeastern regional strategy views the north as a supplier of raw materials for the Golden

Horseshoe and as a market for its manufactured goods and services."

Mr. Martel: It sounds like the Thoman plan.

Mr. Laughren: And further the chamber says: "In the absence of any meaningful strategy of development, the northeastern Ontario regional strategy has to be labelled as a textbook case of an upper class welfare project."

I hope the minister takes that to heart because he talks about providing increased grants. All the time it's grants, it's never development and it's never growth for northern Ontario. It's never directing economic growth to the north, it's always grants. It's reached the point where the communities up there are dependent upon the provincial grants for their very existence. That's in the short term because they have no alternatives. The government could very well create much more growth in the north than it is. The Falconbridge exemption was a classic example. That didn't create any jobs—none at all. As a matter of fact, it's exporting jobs.

Mr. Martel: Five hundred were laid off.

Mr. Laughren: We've got to create new wealth in the north, not just change around what is already there. The minister has a major responsibility to do that. And I hope he will.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: The northeastern Ontario regional strategy had some valid objectives. There was nothing wrong with the objectives as they laid them out to the Treasury department. They said these are the objectives: greater stability, increased diversity, improved productivity and increased employment. Those are the four major economic objectives and there is nothing wrong with those. But when the northeastern Ontario regional strategy brought forth its analysis, it was simply childish. What better way to put it than the chamber did about an upper-class welfare project? That's the kind of abysmal analysis that's done for northern Ontario.

The chamber itself didn't stop by just criticising; it offered some recommendations. I would like to tell you, Mr. Speaker, what the chamber recommended and this ministry could play a major role in this. They recommended aid from the province to lagging regions such as the northeast; that means involvement in the economy. Further, the province should focus on regional economic development through creation of new employment and use existing policies and programs to upgrade the human resources. Also the province should vigorously move in the direction of the re-

location of jobs away from the Golden Horseshoe.

There's one the minister can chew on. The Treasurer had the opportunity to direct the Steel Company to locate not at Nanticoke to make the Golden Horseshoe even bigger and take a wider sweep, but to go on the north shore or at Sault Ste. Marie. Don't forget the ore comes from Wawa for that operation. There was every opportunity there for this government to move in and say it's about time we did start to relocate industry in this province because it's lopsided the way it is now. The government had an opportunity there and it failed miserably.

[4:30]

The central issue as described by the Chamber of Commerce is this—and I think it's a nice summary paragraph: "Stripped of all shibboleths, the central issue confronting the province is simple, the creation of wealth. This creation of wealth has two components. First, the utilization of wealth generated in the northeast for northeastern development. Second, a concerned effort to examine locations in the northeast whenever investment decisions are made at the provincial level. Unless the province confronts this critical issue and resolves it in favour of the northeast, the creation of the new ministry will only result in the legitimization of another fiefdom to oversee a vast wasteland."

That's how strongly the Sudbury and District Chamber of Commerce feels about it. They feel strongly about it because they've been promised all sorts of things over the years and nothing ever changes. Very little ever changes, and they are tired, as we are tired, of nothing but promises. Nothing changes in the policies of this government. I think it should discard forever—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Three members changed.

Mr. Laughren: Not in the Sudbury region.

Mr. Martel: Holy smoke, listen to who is talking. Ever been to Kenora? The roads are paved with gold—in and out of Kenora.

Mr. Laughren: There is a rumour as well that if you pave another mile of Manitoulin Island it will sink.

Mr. Martel: During the last two elections, they came too close together.

Mr. Laughren: I just want to say to the minister that we're supporting this bill on second reading and we think that there is potential. We hope very much that the government will not just arbitrarily discard the amendments that will be introduced by my colleague from Sudbury East. A lot of thought went into them and they make a lot of sense.

The reason I wanted the Chamber of Commerce's views on the record—I put them as directly as I could—is that I think after this many years in government the Conservatives tend to regard the opposition as always posturing and never really having anything to offer of substance. I think that's unfair. Those of us in northern Ontario ridings do have something to offer in terms of suggestions of how to make improvements in the north—both in the unorganized communities and in the economic development of the north.

We're serious about it. We have the interest of our constituents at heart as government members do for theirs. We think that it's time they sat back and said, "It's not just the opposition. It's not just because they're New Democrats that they are talking about more government intervention in the economy in northern Ontario." Because here is a body like the Chamber of Commerce that is saying the same thing.

Maybe that's what it will take to make the government see that there is some common sense in the policies that we propose—that it isn't just some kind of knee-jerk ideological reaction that we have, when we talk about the development of the north. There's a lot of common sense to it, and certainly I think the government would be the last one to accuse the Chamber of Commerce of lacking in common sense. I would encourage them to seriously consider our amendment and get on with the job of creating a better northern Ontario.

Mr. Martel: You spoke to them, didn't you, Leo, when you were in Sudbury?

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for Oriole.

Mr. Reid: There is a great northerner. North of Bloor Street.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, the enactment of this proposed bill will undoubtedly herald a new era of opportunity and well-being for all of the people of northern Ontario—

Mr. Reid: Let's not overdo it.

Mr. Williams: —by reinforcing the co-operation and assistance that has been provided to the people of northern Ontario by all the ministries of this government.

Mr. Laughren: Now I know what Hugh Segal is doing now.

Mr. Mancini: Don't you think it is going too far, Leo?

Mr. Reid: Why do we need it if it has been such a great help?

Mr. Williams: I would hasten to say that this does not mean that there have not been significant accomplishments made in the past

through the initiatives brought forward by this government as far as providing the services and support for the people of northern Ontario is concerned.

Mr. Martel: John, would you talk to him?

Mr. Williams: Last evening I listened with interest to the criticism of those accomplishments made both by the member for Sudbury East and the member for Rainy River. I won't dignify with a response the boorish and insulting remarks made in the Legislature last evening by the member for Sudbury East, but I will comment on those observations and criticisms made by the member for Rainy River.

Mr. Laughren: Hop into bed, John.

Mr. Williams: It was pointed out by that member that he was disappointed in the past accomplishments—he suggested in fact, that there hadn't been any—with regard to the three main industries of the north. He spoke at some length about the mining industry, the forest industry and the tourist industry.

He suggested that the government hadn't been doing enough with regard to support of the mining industry, and yet we well know that the province of Ontario continues to remain as the main base mining resource area, perhaps second to none anywhere in the world. It's acknowledged that the mining industry isn't the healthiest at this time, probably attributable largely to the fact that we have depressed prices for precious and other metals throughout the world; and this indeed has been a nagging economic problem.

Mr. Reid: And some of the policies of the present government.

Mr. Williams: But no other government, I suggest, has provided as much backup and support to assist the private sector in the development of mining in the north to bring it to the position it holds in the world today.

Mr. Laughren: Let them ship the ore down. That is how you help them. Keep shipping it out.

Mr. Williams: I would point out too that the member was highly critical of the alleged lack of initiative taken by this government with regard to support of the forest industry in Ontario.

Mr. Martel: Leo, you need his help like you need a hole in the head.

Mr. Williams: At that time he suggested all this government had done had been to provide study after study after study with regard to the problems in the north without any action thereon. Obviously, the member's

comments were making light of the facts that are before us. I only have to refer to one specific study as an example of the distortion of fact into fiction. One of the studies that perhaps he was alluding to last evening was the 1972 management policy study entitled, *Forest Production Policy Options for the Province of Ontario*. I point out that that was in 1972—

Mr. Stokes: Boy, was that ever off the mark. You wouldn't quote that one.

Mr. Williams: —and lest the idea be left that nothing has flowed from those studies, such as that one, for the record I would simply point out that as a result of that study, and through the initiatives of this government, we have attracted an expansion in the north unheralded with regard to the pulp and paper industry. I refer to the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company's Kapuskasing facility involving a capital investment of \$3.8 million. There was the Great Lakes Paper Company project, a stud and tie mill operation at Thunder Bay, at a cost of \$4 million. We encouraged the Pope and Talbot \$2.5-million facility at Hudson as an expansion of their sawmill.

Mr. Reid: We won't go into that one.

Mr. Stokes: You are embarrassing the minister.

Mr. Williams: We have the Weldwood of Canada project at Longlac, which is an expansion of their waferboard plant facility. We encouraged Eddy Forest Products with regard to their sawmill operation at Nairn Centre. We had a \$4-million expansion of the sawmill facilities at Newaygo Timber Company at Mead. Then, too, there was the Macmillan-Bloedel facility at Thunder Bay, the flakeboard plant, a substantial \$8-million facility employing in excess of 70 people.

Mr. Stokes: And they have been flaking the suppliers ever since.

Mr. Williams: As another example of action—and this will be of interest to the member for Lake Nipigon, who just interjected—at the Kimberly-Clark facility at Terrace Bay—

Mr. Reid: We've heard about them.

Mr. Williams: —there was an expansion of their stud mill facility there. Then, too, there was the Malette Lumber operation at Timmins. I would point to the Sklar Furniture Limited operation at Mattawa—

Mr. Martel: All that expansion and fewer jobs.

Mr. Williams: —the Rogers Lumber facility at Alban, a \$1-million sawmill facility employing over 100 people.

Mr. Martel: Don't talk about that one.

Mr. Williams: And while it may be laughable, and understandably so, to the member for Sudbury East—

Mr. Martel: Maybe you should know what is going on. Any donkey can stand and quote.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order please. The hon. member for Sudbury East will not interject.

Mr. Martel: He should know what he is talking about.

Mr. Williams: Based on his performance last evening, Mr. Speaker, it's understandable—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will ignore the interjections. They're out of order.

Mr. Williams: Then, too, there's the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company facility at Kapuskasing with their newsprint expansion there. Finally, I would point to the Cochrane Enterprises sawmill facility.

Mr. Reid: You forgot the pulp and paper mill at Atikokan. You are not very well informed.

Mr. Williams: So there are more than a dozen facilities that have flowed through the initiatives of this government.

Mr. Reid: Oh, baloney—the initiatives of this government!

Mr. Williams: There are more than a dozen facilities that have been brought forward through the initiatives of this government, working in conjunction with the private sector, to bring much-needed employment to northern Ontario emanating from one of the many studies that were criticized by the member for Rainy River last evening.

Mr. Reid: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the member would accept a question?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please, no. The question would be out of order.

Mr. Reid: Oh, well, we don't know that until we hear it. It probably would be.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, if I might continue.

Mr. Reid: Let's take a vote on it.

Mr. Williams: The member, last night, made reference as well to the tourist industry and suggested that—

Mr. Reid: Where is the wood going to come from to serve all these mills?

Mr. Williams: —not much was being done to assist the tourist industry in northern Ontario. Yet, I can well recall during the last session, particularly with regard to the hearings held before the public accounts committee, from some sectors there was a

great deal of criticism of the government's financial support policy with regard to this base industry in the north country, to the point where it was suggested that it should be totally withdrawn.

Mr. Reid: There is another one.

Mr. Williams: I can only suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that if it were not for the government's initiative and financial support for the tourist industry in the north that—

Mr. Reid: If you are talking about Minaki Lodge you are right. That is Leo's white elephant.

Mr. Williams: —it would not be today where it is.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The Liberal candidate in your riding wanted to finish Minaki Lodge.

Mr. Mancini: You weren't a big hit in my riding either, so don't feel bad.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The interjections are entirely out of order. The hon. member will continue please.

Mr. Williams: So, to suggest that the government has limited itself to studies of the north without acting on the findings and identifying the problems through those studies is completely erroneous.

Mr. Reid: Ask the minister what the problem is. He knows what the problems are.

Mr. Williams: What the member also identified as a major problem in the north, as he saw it, last evening, was the question of communication and transportation. I think, while the member did acknowledge the difficulties experienced in an area so vast, with such a sparse population, where we have 90 per cent of the geographic area of the province located with less than 10 per cent of the population, indeed, it's not an easy task to service those widespread communities that are so sparsely populated.

But, while the member was critical of that situation, which I think is a fact of life, he did not choose to comment on the successes that have been achieved in the north, again through the initiative of the government. I found it interesting that he chose not to make reference to the successes accomplished under the jurisdiction and authority of the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission. Of course, through that facility I would suggest there's no other jurisdiction in the world that provides so much in the way of transportation service to such a large area so sparsely populated as here.

The member was critical of the lack of transportation facilities, yet he saw no cause

to make reference to the Northland's very successful operations with regard to bus and rail service. He did not choose to make comment on the fact that this year, in fact, there will be the introduction—and I understand, if it's on schedule, it will be this Saturday—of the Northlander project. This will provide through the use of the new equipment that has been introduced by the Northland Commission, a new set of—

Mr. Martel: In fact, John, we are getting too much in the north.

Mr. Williams: —passenger units. There will be four train sets available—

Mr. Reid: Yes, and you bought the equipment in Europe. It could have been made in Thunder Bay.

Mr. Williams: —each providing a capacity of 114, with dining car and other facilities, that will greatly enhance the existing facilities for the people of the north country.

[4:45]

He did not make reference to the fact that through the norOntario service the passenger service has increased in the past 12-month period by 31 per cent, servicing more than 82,000 passengers during that period.

I think these are glaring omissions that were made last evening, Mr. Speaker, and because of that did not truly represent what accomplishments have been made in the north country. These are only some of the examples, Mr. Speaker, there are others.

Mr. Reid: Did you ever hear of reforestation?

Mr. Williams: He made reference to lack of communication facilities, telecommunication facilities, and by so doing chose not to acknowledge the fact that there has been a considerable expansion of direct distance dialing facilities north and west of the Cochrane area, and that new microwave systems north of Timmins have been introduced and that in fact there are continuing microwave facilities being provided in the farther northern regions of the province to assist in communication between those widely spread, geographically speaking, sparsely settled communities.

These I think are the things that have to be said to give a proper perspective to the matter and to point out that while this bill will provide greater opportunities for initiative by this government, it clearly points out that much has been achieved in the past.

Before leaving the successes of the past and coming to what is anticipated in the future because of the enactment of this bill,

I would simply also point out that the member simply glossed over the successes that have been accomplished in the way of endeavouring to introduce other industry into the north, to complement and act as secondary to the base industries, through the efforts of the Northern Ontario Development Corporation.

Mr. Laughren: Time!

Mr. Williams: While he made reference to the corporation, he chose not to in any way elaborate upon its successes and the way in which it is endeavouring to assist the private sector to—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It's refreshing to hear the truth.

Mr. Martel: That's what's wrong with you being in charge of that ministry.

Mr. Williams: —growth and industry in the north and to improve its economy.

Much criticism has been directed at the substance and content of this bill. It has been suggested that it's too broad, which I find interesting, because one of the ways in which a new ministry can most effectively operate is to have the broadest possible terms of reference so that it will not be inhibited or restricted in any way from meeting the anticipated and unanticipated needs of the areas for which it will be responsible.

The bill highlights the co-ordinating and accessibility features of the new ministry. This is really the main, important feature of the legislation—

Mr. Martel: Did you hear that, Leo? The co-ordinating part is the main part of the ministry, that is what he said.

Mr. Williams: —that the co-ordinating activities that will flow from the new ministry are to enhance the co-operation and assistance that has been available there in the past from the various ministries. This, of course, will pull it all together and make the various arms of government much more readily accessible through this central facility.

The member for Rainy River was critical last night of the fact that only two regional offices have been set up already, before the ministry has even been formally created. I suggest, to the contrary, that this shows the speed and earnestness with which this government intends to see that the new ministry is meaningful and operative from day one.

We have the new facility in the Sault, which is a central and appropriate location for a regional office. It couldn't be more centrally located, geographically speaking, to serve the north. And, of course, the regional

office in Kenora will serve the northwesterly sector of our province.

The broad terms of reference as spelled out under section 8, Mr. Speaker, will I suggest provide the latitude necessary to this ministry, in the same way that the broad terms of reference to deal with social and economic needs and concerns as presently exist under our Planning Act legislation give planning boards and local councils the opportunity to deal in broad ways with the broad issues of the particular jurisdiction for which they are responsible.

Mr. Laughren: Time!

Mr. Williams: So, I think the form which the bill takes is most appropriate to deal with a very broadly-based situation that affects areas so widely apart and so diverse in their social and economic considerations. I am sure the co-ordinating facilities of this new ministry will help to alleviate the disparities that may tend to presently exist or that require immediate response from the ministry.

A major complaint that has existed in the past is that the people from the north have had to come to Toronto to get any action or to be heard. And, of course, with these new facilities in the north country and with the ministry in their own backyard, so to speak, these criticisms undoubtedly will be put aside.

I was most impressed last year, as a member of the select committee on the highway transportation of goods, in visiting the north country to find in fact what successes had been accomplished through the Ministry of Natural Resources, which was at that time responsible through its 25 officers in the various areas of the north and how they had been able to cope with and service the needs of the people in that area. But I think through this legislation we will have a much more sophisticated and broadened facility.

Of course, we have to look at the personalities that will be involved in the administering of this program. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that there could not have been a better choice of ministers than that found in the member for Kenora, because I know of no other member of the House who has as much sensitivity, as much knowledge and understanding of the north country than the hon. minister.

Mr. Cunningham: Now we are getting ridiculous.

Mr. Williams: He is a man who does know the difference between a spruce and a jack-pine.

Mr. Mancini: Leo, what is the difference between a spruce and a jackpine?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Come on up and I will show you what it is all about.

Mr. Williams: He is a member who does know where Red Lake is—

Mr. Mancini: I knew they made you the minister for some good reason. I couldn't figure it out at the time, but now I know.

Mr. Williams: —and I suggest to you that he is a member who does understand the significance of closing down a major tourist facility has an impact economically upon an area such as the city of Kenora. So it is appropriate and fitting, I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the member for Kenora will be the minister for that area.

My last observation is this, Mr. Speaker, that while we have a very competent and capable member who will act as the minister, I am delighted to know that behind him—

Interjections.

Mr. Williams: —behind him I know that we will have a shadow minister—

Mr. Laughren: A big shadow, anyway.

Mr. Williams: —in the presence and personage of the member from Manitoulin Island, a man who perhaps did more to—

Mr. Laughren: That bothers us too.

Mr. Williams: —bring about the discussion of this bill today than any other person in this Legislature. I think it would be totally inappropriate not to give due recognition to the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane), because I can recall sitting both on the estimates committee and as a member of the select committee for the highway transportation of goods when that member made impassioned speeches, and very informed speeches, on the needs of the north. He brought to the attention of members who have not had the privilege of residing in and serving that area how important were the needs of that area and how important it was to make government more accessible to the people of the north.

It was through his efforts, certainly, that I came to better appreciate and understand, as a member for a southern, metropolitan, urbanized riding, what the real needs and accomplishments of the north were. So I have to, in closing, compliment that member for the initiatives that he took and which led I think in large measure to the introduction of this legislation today.

The last observation I have, Mr. Speaker, is that the new minister will have not only the member for Algoma-Manitoulin there to assist him, but also the enlarged membership from within the government caucus to support him from all sectors of the north, both ex-

perienced and new members, who will bring new dimensions of support and guidance to that Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Reid: Whose side is he on, anyway?

Mr. Williams: So as I said at the outset, undoubtedly the introduction of this legislation will herald a new era of opportunity and well-being for the people of the north. With that we should speedily enact this legislation.

Mr. Bolan: I might say at this time, Mr. Speaker, that I agree with the bill, if for no other reason than it's a start toward better things, I would hope.

What I planned to do when I first saw that this was on the order paper was to go into the bill in detail. However, I find that it's very difficult to go through it in detail because, frankly there really is not that much to the bill. Nevertheless, in spite of its lack of substance, I will try to go through it after making some general observations.

My first observation to make is with respect to the platitudes which the hon. member for Oriole has bestowed upon the government on its activities in northern Ontario over the past number of years. And it really does surprise me that he extols the virtues of the government when the very fact that the bill is being introduced is an admission on the part of the government that it has failed in its dealings with the people of northern Ontario. If this bill were that important then it would mean that the government had looked towards northern Ontario over the past number of years and had done something concrete.

Is there a minister for southern Ontario? Is there a minister for southwestern Ontario? Is there a minister for southeastern Ontario? Of course, there isn't. And the only reason why there is a designated Minister for Northern Ontario is because of the acknowledgement of this government, after many years of failure, that it must do something to try to alleviate the problems which exist in northern Ontario.

A word of caution to the minister-designate. It's to remind him of the fate which befell his predecessor, the Hon. Allan Lawrence. The advice which I give to the minister-designate is not to seek higher office, because we all know what happened to the Hon. Allan Lawrence, who occupied the position of Minister of Mines and Northern Affairs. We all saw what happened to him when he dared rear his head and tried to obtain the Progressive Conservative nomination.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: He was promoted.

Mr. Bolan: Not only did he lose the nomination, he lost the ministry. So a word

of caution to the minister in the event that he is looking for higher places of office.

Mr. Sargent: Got to get on the end of the line-up there.

Mr. Bolan: Now, Mr. Speaker, let's look at the bill in its entirety. And it is most amusing to see that paragraph 2 reads as follows: "There shall be a ministry of the public service to be known as the Ministry of Northern Affairs." How nice.

Then we go on and we get into the definition sections. And then we get into section 6.

[5:00]

Mr. Martel: The great seal; don't forget the seal.

Mr. Bolan: Section 6 reads as follows: "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may authorize a seal for the ministry."

Interjections.

Mr. Bolan: Not only that, "The seal may be reproduced by engraving, lithography—"

Mr. Reid: Are these trained seals?

Mr. Bolan: "—printing or other methods of mechanical reproduction and when so reproduced has the effect as if manually affixed." That is section 6 of the bill.

Then there is section 7 which deals with the delegation of duties. I suspect that will be the primary function of the minister—to delegate duties.

Then we get to the section which is really the working section of the bill—section 8. It is most interesting, because it says this: "It is the function of the ministry to co-ordinate the activities of the government in northern Ontario." Then it goes on to include what it is to co-ordinate.

Actually, what section 8 says is this: it says to the other ministries, "I will go to you with hat in hand and beg to get something for the people of northern Ontario." And that is precisely what it is—it is nothing more than a beggar clause. Because in order for the minister to get anything from the other ministries, whatever his grandiose plans for northern Ontario may be, he has to co-ordinate these plans with the other ministries.

He has no moneys in this bill that authorize him to go out and do something for northern Ontario. He has to do what the people of northern Ontario have to do today, right now, to get something out of the government; and that is to come down here to Queen's Park with hat in hand and beg for what we are justly entitled to.

That is section 8 of the bill. That is the working section of the bill. The other sections, Mr. Speaker, are meaningless. And it is

to co-ordinate endeavours, to co-ordinate the plans which the minister has.

Where is the budget in the bill? There is no budget.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member has to be kidding.

Mr. Bolan: There is not one cent—

Hon. Mr. Kerr: It's in the budget, not in the bill.

Mr. Bolan: —other than to pay the countless numbers of bureaucrats who will be required to be hired.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Tell that fellow where he is going.

Mr. Sargent: Where is the money coming from?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: It's in the budget.

Mr. Bolan: Let's look at some of the problems of northern Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Nipissing has the floor.

Mr. Bolan: Here are some of the problems which have been created by the government over the past number of years—

Mr. Sargent: Right on target.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Is there a seat at the airport?

An hon. member: Leo doesn't want to make a ministry, he wants to make a dictatorship.

Mr. Bolan: The greatest problem in northern Ontario is the lack of jobs and the lack of opportunities for people to work in northern Ontario. Where are the provisions in the bill that create employment in northern Ontario? I am not aware of them. Unemployment in northeastern Ontario is over 13 per cent. Unemployment in my riding of Nipissing is 11 per cent. Is there anything in the bill to provide for that, to provide for the creation of jobs?

Mr. Hodgson: Merle Dickerson would change that.

Mr. Bolan: These are not promises which Merle Dickerson is giving out, although what the government is trying to do here is, in a backhanded way, doing what Merle Dickerson has been trying to do for a number of years.

Mr. Eakins: Does Merle look after the pork barrel now?

Mr. Bolan: The people of northern Ontario want to work. They don't want to go knocking on doors. They don't want to stand in breadlines.

The people of northern Ontario want to work. If there is anything that I did find out

during the last election campaign it is that when you ask people what they want—they want to work. They don't want to be paid for doing nothing. They want to be paid for doing something. And it is the responsibility of the government to provide employment for them to keep busy, to do something.

What about small businesses in northern Ontario? What about the development of small businesses in northern Ontario? Is there any program in the bill to provide for loans for small businesses? And never mind NODC. NODC is controlled so tightly and rigidly that you are better off going to a finance company before you can get money from the government through it. Where are the moneys for that? There are no provisions in the bill to deal with that.

Mr. Martel: We are going to move that; I hope you support them. Leo's supporting them.

Mr. Bolan: There is a need to stimulate the economy in northern Ontario, and you don't stimulate it by bringing in General Motors or Ford. We don't want big business up there, because that again attracts big unions; and big unions, of course, mean that moneys are siphoned off to the NDP through union dues.

Mr. Martel: You must come from North Bay.

Mr. Bolan: We don't want that.

Mr. Swart: You want it, and can't get it.

Mr. Bolan: What we want are small businesses, which are the backbone of a community.

Interjection.

Mr. Cunningham: You don't take money from unions, do you, Elie?

Mr. Bolan: Let's look at tourism in northern Ontario. It was this government which, to appease certain members of this government who were from northern Ontario, sought some time ago to devise a scheme for the creation of a tourist complex called Maple Mountain.

Mr. Sargent: There's a winner for you. There's a good one.

Mr. Bolan: They were going to pump millions and millions of dollars into the middle of the wilderness, and from this they were going to create hundreds of jobs for the residents of Timiskaming.

Mr. Eakins: They diverted that to Minaki Lodge instead.

Mr. Bolan: Instead of getting into that, why doesn't the government take a proper look at northern Ontario and see where the base of the tourist industry is? It's Lake Nipissing; that's where it is. The government

doesn't have to go any further than that. Instead of diverting moneys into the middle of the bush, it should go to an area where there is a proven tourist attraction; build on that and make it inviting so that the people will go there. That's the way to develop tourism. Go with the assets we already have; don't start from scratch. If you know you have an area that is sound and good, you go there and build up from there.

To get there, I would urge the minister-designate to approach the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to co-ordinate the continuation of the building of Highway 11 and four-laning it into North Bay. Instead of waiting to build it all the way up, why not start from North Bay and go down towards Huntsville?

Interjection.

Mr. Bolan: These are the things which should be done but which are not provided for in this bill.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I suggest to the hon. member that the principle of this bill is the setting up of a ministry; it's not to discuss the various problems of the north—

Mr. Cunningham: We don't have enough time for that.

Mr. Nixon: This is a maiden speech.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bolan: Mr. Speaker, if I may, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: With respect, the principle of the bill is setting up the new ministry. If the hon. member would really try to keep—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Bolan: If it were a question of criticizing what has gone wrong, Mr. Speaker, I'd be here for two weeks, I'm sorry to say. However, I will get on.

Mr. Speaker: There has been quite a bit of straying, and although we allow a certain amount of leeway—perhaps too much, and I think quite often too much—really the principle of the bill—

Mr. Sargent: There are some pretty dull decisions in Hansard, too, made by the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much! Would the hon. member please keep his silence? The interjections, if he were to read them in Hansard, really make very poor reading.

If the hon. member will continue, will he please keep to the principle of the bill, which is setting up the new ministry.

Mr. Sargent: Pretty dull decision in Hansard, too.

Mr. Speaker: That's right.

Mr. Sargent: Made by the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member should take that part back.

Mr. Sargent: I said there are some pretty dull decisions. I won't take it back. I mean it.

Mr. Speaker: Then I will name the hon. member.

Mr. Sargent: You've got to—

Mr. Speaker: No. Order, please. I'll give the hon. member one more opportunity to withdraw his remark.

Mr. Sargent: Ah, come on. I said the dull decisions of the Speaker. You don't like that?

Mr. Speaker: No.

Mr. Sargent: I will withdraw it. You are getting pretty touchy.

Mr. Speaker: Well, I have noticed a certain amount of sensitivity elsewhere.

The hon. member for Nipissing will continue but I would ask him to try to keep to the principle of the bill.

Mr. Bolan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try, although it is very difficult.

Mr. Martel: The member for Oriole read out a list a mile and a half long.

Mr. Bolan: Going back then to the principle of the bill, which is to assist northern Ontario. I believe that is one of the principles of the bill, Mr. Speaker—to assist northern Ontario. One of the ways to assist northern Ontario is the creation of jobs. How do we go about creating jobs?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Is development in northern Ontario mentioned specifically in the bill?

Mr. Bolan: One of the ways you'd do it is by providing industrial expansion.

Mr. Speaker: May I respectfully suggest to the hon. member that this is not what this bill is about. We allow a certain amount of latitude, especially with a new member, but really we are getting on to other problems, which are important problems but really the principle of the bill is just the setting up of this ministry.

Mr. Cunningham: Why do you allow other speakers—

Mr. Nixon: This is a maiden speech.

Mr. Speaker: We're allowing interjections now, and the hon. member should respect that.

Mr. Bolan: It is my feeling, Mr. Speaker, that what the ministry should do to really add teeth to this bill and to add teeth to its position is to create jobs. I say there are no provisions in the bill to create jobs. There are

provisions in the bill to co-ordinate activities relating to the development of northern Ontario and one of the ways of developing northern Ontario is to create jobs. May I further say that this is an item which was discussed at some length last night when the bill was being debated and it was also discussed earlier this afternoon. I am merely trying to attempt to continue in the same vein and to afford the government what I consider to be constructive criticism as to what should be done with the bill, and what should be done with the ministry once it is established.

I realize that the bill is being debated for the purpose of establishing the ministry. But in order to establish the ministry you first of all have to define what it is about. You have to find out what is going to happen to it. You have to find out what are its terms of reference.

I suggest that one of the terms of reference of the bill is the development of northern Ontario, and as I said earlier, one of the items which contributes to the development of northern Ontario is the creation of jobs. To that end, I say that for the purpose of developing jobs what is needed in the bill is a plan for industrial expansion. There are no plans in the bill for industrial expansion, and it is industrial expansion that creates jobs, that creates security.

There was some mention last night about ghost towns in northern Ontario. I know what ghost towns are like because I used to live in one. It was called Cobalt, and it was a ghost town. There was another one mentioned last night by the hon. member for Sudbury East—Blind River. You can't even find a stray cat in Blind River. There is nothing in Blind River.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Careful.

Mr. Bolan: This is in northern Ontario. This was allowed to happen by this government because of its inability to cope with the problems of northern Ontario over the past number of years. There should be a plan, there should be a blueprint in this bill, for the development of northern Ontario, yet there are no provisions for it.

We do approve of the bill because at least it's the beginning of something which we hope will add to the betterment of the people of northern Ontario. Another thing which is required up there, and which should be in the bill—and this all ties in with the idea of decentralizing what's going on down here in Toronto—is a decentralizing of the government. From the fact that this ministry is being created the government is starting to decentralize, because the head office of it, as I

understand, will be in Sault Ste. Marie. There'll be branch offices in other areas. But there should be more ministries decentralized and more attention paid through the distribution of these ministries in the province of Ontario.

[5:15]

I was sitting in on the estimates for Housing last week and I was astounded to find that in a little place called North Pickering the government to date has spent some \$200 million to acquire lands which for all intents and purposes lie fallow. They lie fallow because of the shallow thinking of the government in acquiring them in the first place. These lands, on which hopefully we are going to build industries and towns, are costing us \$20 million a year just for the interest debt on it, and nothing is going to be done with them until the year 1980 or the year 1981.

Instead of these massive sums of money being spent to create satellite towns and satellite cities in this area, why don't we do the same thing in northern Ontario? Why don't we build a new economic base in northern Ontario? Again, that has been the failure of this government and it's been reflected by the fact that this bill is now required to cure the ills and their sins of the past.

May I also say in closing that the greatness which was to be the hallmark of this province during the 1970s has been lost through default. This default is the result of the ineptitude of the government of Ontario during the 1970s and also the result of the gross negligence of the handling of provincial affairs. What really was supposed to be a dream in this province in 1970 has turned into a nightmare.

Mr. Stokes: I am happy to participate in this debate which will mean the establishment, hopefully, of something that will alleviate at least in some measure some of the social and economic problems that befall that area lying north of the French River.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: They include Parry Sound now.

Mr. Wildman: They include Parry Sound now.

Mr. Nixon: They've got cheap licence plates down there in Parry Sound now.

Mr. Stokes: I read with a good deal of interest the opening remarks of the minister and the two leadoff speakers for the opposition parties. I wasn't able to be here in person because I was in the estimates committee on resources development. I did, however, get in time to listen to the newly elected member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) where he plagiarized to a large extent the

opening remarks of the minister. I just thought how different, if one listens astutely enough and one listens long enough, it is as to how the wheel turns in terms of the kind of reaction you get from members from the government side over there.

I want to quote, Mr. Speaker, from Hansard of March 17, 1970, when the last Conservative member who represented Fort William riding took advantage of the opportunity to rise and speak about the establishment of a new ministry of northern affairs. In contrast to what the present member for Fort William said last evening, I would like you to listen, Mr. Speaker, to what his predecessor said on March 17, 1970. It was Mr. Jessiman for those who don't recall that far back.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That was some years ago. Things have changed.

Mr. Stokes: He said: "Needless to say, I was most pleased to learn of the creation of the Department of Northern Affairs." He didn't say it was an information vehicle at all.

Mr. Nixon: He didn't understand the difference.

Mr. Stokes: He said: "I was pleased too that this government had the wisdom to contain the function within another department. We could easily have done what the federal government has chosen to do and raised the taxpayers' money by setting up another separate department and creating another extravagance that the people in the province or country could not afford."

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That was seven years ago.

Mr. Swart: You are on a restraint program now.

Mr. Stokes: It only took seven years for the Conservatives in Fort William riding to come to the realization that all was not well in northern Ontario. I'm not going to go into the exercise of trying to second-guess why this government in its wisdom set up a new Ministry of Northern Affairs. I'm not even going to attribute any motives to them. All I want to caution the minister about is that if he is genuinely interested in and serious about addressing himself and attracting the attention of his government to the problems in the north in a much more meaningful way than has ever been done before, I want to assure him that he'll get the co-operation at least of the member for Lake Nipigon.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Don't separate yourself now.

Mr. Stokes: I want to assure the minister that if it's strictly a pork-barrel exercise

where he's going to pay attention to those areas of the province that supported the Conservative Party in the last election that's fine, but he'll do it at his own peril because, as he well knows, the people in northern Ontario are a breed apart from voters and electors generally in the province of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It will be all the north, the whole north.

Mr. Hodgson: You're starting to see the light.

Mr. Stokes: Will you stop mumbling?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Lake Nipigon only has the floor.

Mr. Hodgson: You don't like that. I said you were starting to see the light.

Mr. Stokes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hodgson: You are not the Speaker now.

Mr. Stokes: I would like to have an assurance from the minister that he's genuinely interested and concerned about addressing his new ministry to the problems, social, economic and to some extent cultural. Even though I don't think it's part of his terms of reference, it's almost inevitable that if he is going to act in an operating role and in a co-ordinating role, he is going to be faced with some of the cultural problems that are facing a fair number of the people who reside in northern Ontario. I'm sure he has had an opportunity and has availed himself of the opportunity of reading the brief that was presented to the cabinet last night.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I was there.

Mr. Stokes: You were there yourself? That particular problem is not going to go away. I see this ministry playing an extremely important role in bringing that segment of our population in northwestern Ontario into the mainstream of things socially, culturally and economically.

I listened to the member for Oriole with a great deal of interest when he talked of the successes with regard to the better utilization of forest products. While I don't think it was germane to this debate, it was allowed by the Speaker and I think it calls for some kind of reaction on behalf of members over here on this side. It is quite all right for the government to have taken credit for the expansion and the greater utilization of our forestry resources. It is quite all right for it to take—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We did it.

Mr. Cunningham: Taking credit for the English-Wabigoon too, Leo?

Mr. Stokes: Just a moment. You are trying to anticipate me.

The government's job is only half finished. What is going to happen five, 10, 15 and 20 years down the road when people start coming to this government saying, "Where are the inventories? Where is the supply of wood of various species that's going to allow us to operate in perpetuity?" The minister, if he's honest, since he held that portfolio previous to this one and the present minister who has said his policy is still two for one—even though he has been repudiated by several of his own cabinet colleagues who say it is unrealistic in the foreseeable future.

I want to caution the minister that if it is an unrealistic goal in the short term, a good many accomplishments of which the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) made mention of 15 or 20 minutes ago mean there's going to be an awful lot of red faces in the new Ministry of Northern Affairs, and indeed throughout that entire ministry over there, wondering what we were doing in the early 1970s about paying some attention to our needs in the future.

So, while the government can take credit for greater utilization, I want it to analyse the number of new jobs that have actually been created as a result of that. While ministries of the Crown will point to the fact that they are ahead of the timetable set for the establishment of new jobs in the forest industry, as called for in Design for Development, those jobs, if one wants to analyse it closely, aren't there. The Minister of Northern Affairs, now and in his previous portfolio, bragged of 5,000 new jobs in the forestry sector in northern Ontario. Those jobs aren't there. They just aren't there.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They are. Do a check and you will find they are, sir.

Mr. Stokes: I have checked, and they aren't there. Due to the highly capital nature of the forest industry and because of increased mechanization, they are laying claim to the establishment of many job opportunities in the forestry sector that just haven't materialized.

The same thing can be said for the mining industry. Due to the highly capital nature of that industry, there has actually been a net decrease in the number of job opportunities in the mining sector. If the minister doesn't believe me, let him ask his own people in the resources development sector.

The member for Oriole has said that the climate for expansion in the mining industry in Ontario, and in particular northern Ontario, was never better. I don't know who he's listening to and I don't know where he's getting his advice from and I don't

know who is writing his speeches, but he doesn't have to take the word of members over here. All he has to do—

Mr. Williams: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Roy: Ah, sit down, you have had your chance.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has a point of order? Order, please.

Mr. Williams: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The statement attributed to me is completely erroneous, and I wish the member had listened to my remarks more carefully.

Mr. Wildman: It is hard to listen to you.

Mr. Germa: You are being nonsensical anyway.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure whether the hon. member was being quoted or interpreted.

Mr. Foulds: That's right—quoting him quite accurately.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member who was speaking would know which it was.

Mr. Stokes: Pardon?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member, that's yourself, would know whether he is quoting him or misquoting him or whether he was interpreting, in his opinion, what he said. I will leave it with the hon. member.

[5:30]

Mr. Stokes: All I want your assurance on is that I am in order. I'll ignore the interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I am most sorry. The Speaker's attention was momentarily distracted. I am not sure whether you were quoting the hon. member. If so, he has a right to rise if he was misquoted. I am not sure whether you were quoting him or not.

Mr. Stokes: That's your decision to make.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry that I didn't hear. Was the hon. member quoting you?

Mr. Williams: I took it as a quote and it was a misquote, if it was.

Mr. Speaker: You have corrected it then. If you were misquoted, you have taken the necessary step to correct the misquote.

Mr. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stokes: Getting back to where I left off when I was so rudely interrupted, I heard very clearly the member for Oriole say that the climate vis-à-vis the mining industry in Ontario was never better. All I want to say to the member is that he doesn't have to take my word for it. All he has to do is read the latest report that was put out from the mineral section of the Ministry of Natural Resources,

which is highly critical of the taxation policies in the province of Ontario which are not conducive to mineral exploration in northern Ontario at the present time.

All he has to do is look at the Northern Miner and see how critical they have been of policies of this present government that are not conducive to the maximum development of our mineral wealth in the province of Ontario at the present time.

Mr. Williams: I did not say that the mining environment in Ontario was never better.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. You have stated that. The hon. member did not give a direct quotation, I listened very carefully this time. He gave an interpretation of some remarks which the hon. member for Oriole probably made. It was an interpretation; it wasn't a quote or therefore a misquote. He is in order.

Mr. Stokes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Roy: As a lawyer, the member should know better than to get up like that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Lake Nipigon will continue.

Mr. Stokes: I wanted to get back to something I mentioned earlier when I was distracted by the member for Oriole. I want to say something to the minister if he wants to maintain credibility with the people in the north. I went over his remarks last night in Instant Hansard. He quoted quite extensively from editorials from a good many of the newspapers in the north which said: "It's a step in the right direction. Let's get behind it and let's support it." Let's hope that it is the vehicle whereby we can realize many of the kinds of things we have been talking about over the years, regardless of what our political affiliations are in this Legislature.

If the minister is genuinely interested and concerned, the major portion of the budget that is going to be given to him is for transportation services, whether it be for the regular transportation services to improve communications between the widely spread communities in the north, or to increase the opportunity for greater communications among our people using all of the technological advances that are available now. The ministry is a vehicle to co-ordinate an industrial strategy with his counterparts down here. When I say the co-ordination of an industrial strategy, I am not just talking about Design for Development for Northeastern Ontario. The latter was designed in 1969 and accepted as government policy in 1970. He and I know that those documents are completely irrelevant.

Mr. Germa: Say it again.

Mr. Wildman: Say it again.

Mr. Stokes: They are completely irrelevant today.

Mr. Reid: Why isn't he updating them then?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Those were resolutions and they have been acted upon, and the member knows it.

Mr. Stokes: They are completely irrelevant today. All he has to do is look at the documents that have been prepared with regard to health services and the documents that have been prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources for an industrial strategy for northwestern Ontario, and he wouldn't recognize those documents that are being prepared today. If the minister looks at those documents, he will find that the conventional wisdoms which may have been appropriate—and I'll admit that possibly they were appropriate in the late 1960s—are completely irrelevant today. It's a whole new ball game.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You supported Design for Development.

Mr. Stokes: That's right. But the thing is, nothing ever remains the same. As the lead minister for northern Ontario, the minister has to be prepared to play not only a co-ordinating role but an operational role with regard to a good many of these programs, not the least of which is the regional priorities budget. Built into the discretion that the minister is going to have, in concert with his colleagues, there is going to be sufficient flexibility with regard to anywhere from \$50 million to \$60 million, which is not an insignificant amount.

If the minister can use those dollars wisely, he can have a very profound effect on an industrial strategy for all of northern Ontario. Whether it is spent in northeastern Ontario, the Sudbury basin, Rainy River, Kenora or Pickle Lake, \$50 million or \$60 million of new money spent in the right way can have a very profound effect on the economic life of all of northern Ontario.

When I'm talking about how the minister is going to allocate those funds to get the biggest bang for his buck, he is going to have to do something that I suggest should have been done many years ago. We have a resource-based economy at the present time. The minister should listen to what has been said by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion as a voice from the federal level and to the Ontario Economic Council as a voice at the provincial level, and add to that what his colleague, the Treasurer, said during the recent campaign. They said that with the present economic conditions and with the high cost of transportation, the kind of de-

velopment that he and I would aspire to, as representatives of the north, are just not going to happen if the government maintains the status quo.

Consider that as far back as 10 years ago we were promised an industrial strategy for the entire province of Ontario; six or seven years ago we were promised a land-use plan for the province of Ontario. We have neither today. How in God's name are we in the north going to try to develop an industrial strategy for that segment of the province which so badly needs it when we have nothing with which to relate?

We are not completely isolated in a social and economic sense. Geographically, we are. But in a social and economic sense there is no way that we can divorce ourselves from what is going on here in southern Ontario and think that things that happen in southern Ontario have no impact on what is going on in the north. I don't know how the minister is going to attempt to devise an industrial strategy for northern Ontario without knowing where we're going in an overall provincial sense. I just don't think it's possible.

I don't know how it's possible for us to aspire to the kinds of things that they have in such abundance in southern Ontario, whether it is jobs, the availability of educational opportunities or a lot of the infrastructure amenities that we find in such abundance in southern Ontario because they have an adequate tax base.

The one community, outside of Hudson, of which the minister is probably most aware is Sioux Lookout. Let's look at the community of Sioux Lookout, which traditionally is a turnaround point for Canadian National Railways. That was its reason for being there. It is one of the two communities in northern Ontario, the other one being Ignace, that are for all practical purposes in receivership. Which means that—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You are wrong.

Mr. Stokes: I am wrong?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Sioux Lookout is in good financial position.

Mr. Stokes: That must have changed within the last six months.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Last year.

Mr. Stokes: That must have changed within the last six months, because I can remember quite distinctly that when they wanted to borrow money for some road-building equipment the province moved in through the regional representative from Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs and they said, "No. You don't spend one penny unless we authorize it." Essentially they are

in the same position as the town of Ignace was.

We always use this word "unique" or "special circumstances" for northern Ontario. But I don't know how else one would describe a community in the north that is the bedroom community for literally hundreds of workmen who commute to jobs every morning and every night, and that community is forced to provide the services—whether they be educational services, water, sewer, medical services—all of the services that people have come to expect and demand in this day and age. Unless they have the necessary tax base in order to provide those services they are going to be second class communities. I wanted to dissociate myself from the remark that was made by the former speaker, the member for Nipissing (Mr. Bolan), when he said "you can't even see a cat going down the street in Blind River."

I have been through Blind River and I know that it is a typical community in northern Ontario. It is struggling for survival. They do have their difficulties in much the same way that people in Ignace and the people in Sioux Lookout do.

Mr. Wildman: That's right, Jack.

Mr. Stokes: But to suggest that they are ghost towns, this creates a false impression of the kinds of things that we are attempting to do on behalf of all communities in northern Ontario. I think that any member from anywhere in the province who stands here and creates that kind of an impression of a northern community does a disservice to the north and the people he represents.

I would like to have an assurance from the minister that he is genuinely interested in finding new ways and taking new initiatives in bringing a better level of services to people in the north. That gets me to the next point, Mr. Speaker, which is a sort of chicken and egg thing. What do you do? Do you try to convince this government to put some of their own funds in to act as an incentive to get industry to locate in northern Ontario; or does a particular community that thinks they have economic development potential on its doorstep build the services into that community to make them attractive and then try to develop an industrial strategy for that particular area?

As the minister well knows, a good deal of the problem we have in northern Ontario is attracting professional people, whether they be doctors, dentists or engineers of any variety needed in the primary resources sector. We have a turnover of as much as 200 to 300 per cent in certain segments of our

industrial complex in the north because of our inability to retain people once we get them into many northern communities.

As corny as it may sound, it all gets back to this quality of life thing that we all are so anxious to use. It seems to me that the only way the government is going to materially and fundamentally change the opportunities to attract industry in the north is in the forestry sector to allocate a sufficient amount of dollars to do all of the things that all of the professions, whether they be in the academic community or whether they be in your ministries or whether they be out in the private sector, agree must be done in order to assure a good healthy and vibrant future for our forestry sector.

[5:45]

Mr. S. Smith: A point of privilege.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Yes, the hon. member may state his point of privilege.

Mr. S. Smith: A little earlier, the present speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon, suggested that our member for Nipissing was incorrect in suggesting—I think his exact words were "It's wrong to call Blind River a ghost town." I wish to quote from last night's debate in which the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) said, "What has the government done to prevent ghost towns." The hon. minister said, "Where are the ghost towns." And the member for Sudbury East said, "Blind River, where there isn't an industry left and you've had years to do something about it."

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for Sudbury East is rising on a point of privilege?

Mr. Martel: Yes, to speak to the Leader of the Opposition's point of privilege: I suggested last night that the government had failed to respond to the needs and was elaborating that there were no industries left. That, in fact, is what I was alluding to. There are no industries left in Blind River.

Mr. Roy: You said ghost town.

Mr. Martel: And I think the Liberal Leader should read the rest of it rather than take a few lines out of context.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: The Leader of the Opposition is pretty smooth at that.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has stated his point of privilege. The hon. member for Lake Nipigon will continue.

Mr. Stokes: In order to ensure long-term security and perpetuate life for the com-

munities in northern Ontario that rely wholly and solely on the forestry resources, you are first of all going to have to make much better use of the funds that are already available to ensure a sustained yield and a high allowable cut in all the areas that are being harvested.

The second thing your ministry must do pertains to those communities that depend for their existence upon a finite and non-renewable resource. The largest community in my riding owes its existence principally to two mining companies. One of them closed down in March leaving 173 people without a job. About 20 of those people were absorbed locally. The other 150 people—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is bigger today than it was then. Geraldton is bigger today than it was then.

Mr. Stokes: I'm not talking about Geraldton. I am talking about Manitouwadge. Willroy Mines closed in Manitouwadge, throwing 173 people out of jobs. Some of them were absorbed locally. The vast majority of them have already moved out or are in the process of moving out.

The last remaining company still operating in that community has about 525 employees. It's a wholly-owned subsidiary of Noranda Mines. We were told as late as a year ago that there was a sufficient amount of ore to sustain that operation for 25 to 30 years. About two weeks ago, I read the annual report for the Noranda group, and the latest estimates are between 10 and 15 years.

Now that's 10 or 15 years down the road. There is a very real possibility that we are going to have to find an alternative for sustaining the economy of that community within that time. What's going to happen to the most affluent community, with the largest population in the riding of Lake Nipigon, unless you plan to do something about it right now?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We want to do something for Red Lake but you won't let us.

Mr. Stokes: You can do something for Red Lake, as long as you do it properly. I've always said that at any time I have ever had an opportunity to speak about it in this Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Your leader is against it.

Mr. Wildman: Do you mean you are against the Hartt inquiry?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, not at all.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please, the hon. members will refrain from interjecting in

order that the member for Lake Nipigon can continue his remarks.

Mr. Stokes: What is going to happen to a town like Atikokan, when Caland Ore moves out and Steep Rock moves out? Some of those with jobs will be absorbed by the generating plant proposed by Ontario Hydro. That's one community that has a partial solution to a major problem in that one community, but what are we going to do to assist most of the communities in the north unless we change our thinking with regard to the allocation of taxes?

The resources sector in times like this is on the bottom end of a very cyclical kind of operation, that's inevitable when it comes to primary resources; but what happens down the road?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: How about the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Stokes: The principle of the bill? The minister has been extolling the virtues of all of the programs within the various ministries over there and now I'm asking him to get involved.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Taxation is not my bag.

Mr. Stokes: Taxation is not part of his bag. I'm telling him it's going to have to be part of his bag.

If we're going to have the same kind of non-answers to very important problems all the way down the road; if the minister is not going to be accountable in a very major way and in a very direct way for the policies that have such a profound effect on those dormitory communities in the north, all of which owe their existence to our ability to manage our resources sector; if he's not going to address himself to those problems; if he's not going to act as a co-ordinator and come down and convince his cabinet colleagues, whether it be the provincial Treasurer, whether it be the Premier or whether it be the secretaries of the various resource secretariats; if he isn't going to act as our spokesman, I say there's no reason for his being, absolutely none.

It's that lack of co-ordination in the past that has led to the kind of laissez-faire attitude toward northern communities. What those people have done in the past is sit down here in isolation and designed programs they think in general terms meet the needs of the greatest number of people in the province of Ontario. Then they send their people out to try to find people who will conform to those concepts they have down here and those programs they've designed.

What the minister has to do is to analyse the special problems that places like Red Lake, places like Atikokan, places like Mani-

towns and places like Ignace are faced with now and are going to be faced with in the future and design programs that are going to alleviate those problems so that we don't have the kind of effect that has been the case in the past with regard to the Blind Rivers, with regard to the Cobalts, with regard to the Geraldtons and to the Beardmores. We just can't allow that to happen.

Let me give the minister one example, Lake St. Joe: If that were to go in the next five to 10 years, since Canadian Pacific Railway have got involved there is going to be a brand new community with a brand new population of 5,000 to 10,000 people at least 50 miles from any existing community, it's just inevitable that there is going to be a brand new community. We're going to have people walking away from existing communities with millions and millions of dollars in infrastructure. A good many of them will be walking away from the only equity they've ever been able to build up over a lifetime of work, that is their home. We're going to have small businessmen picking up roots, leaving everything they've got behind and trying to make a new life 50 or 100 miles down the road. That isn't what we want in northern Ontario, that is no longer acceptable.

All the minister has to do is look at what his friend Peter Lougheed is doing out in Alberta. He knows with regard to finite resources that he's going to reach the inevitable day when he's going to have to look for an alternative for his people; when all of the natural gas is gone, when all of the oil is gone and all of those things that make them look as though they're riding high right now are exhausted. He has a Heritage Fund. It's well in excess of \$2 billion. He just loaned some of it to Frank Moores out in Newfoundland.

He knows that somewhere down along the road, whether it's 10 or 50 years, he's going to have this nest egg that he can rely on to be able to provide alternatives to his people.

But that's not what we're doing in northern Ontario. When the finite resources are all gone—all the non-renewable resources—then what do we do? What are the people going to say about the stewardship of the Hon. Leo Bernier 15 or 20 or 30 years down the road? What was he doing when he was the Minister of Natural Resources? What was he doing when he was the new Minister of Northern Affairs?

Mr. Wildman: Who knows.

Mr. Roy: Oh hell, they're saying that right now.

Mr. Stokes: What are they going to be saying?

Mr. Roy: They're saying that now, right now. They're not saying very good things about him.

Mr. Stokes: Well I'm not going to be that uncharitable. I'm going to say that we still have time to address ourselves to those kinds of problems.

Mr. Wildman: Repent.

Mr. Stokes: But those problems are not going to go away by themselves. It ill behooves the minister to hide his head in the sand and say, "Let somebody else take care of it." He is the fellow on the spot, because he has the responsibility for the management of our primary resources right throughout this province. He has had that responsibility.

He thinks that he has laid the groundwork for his successor. I would question whether he has laid the groundwork very well, because I read the charter that contained the two-for-one concept for the planting of trees, for the good husbanding of our forestry resources in the province of Ontario. I was kind of curious about it, because in two lines they say—notwithstanding the good shape of our forestry resources, notwithstanding everything that's been said by Armson, by Kennedy, by Hedlin-Menzies, by the Ontario Economic Council, by the Brodie report—they say we are going to plant two trees for every one we cut down.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. I draw to the hon. member's attention the time. Perhaps he could either conclude briefly or adjourn the debate.

Mr. Stokes: All right. I just want to contrast that with the way Premier George Drew said that in 1943. He said it so much better in 1943—and it makes interesting reading, what he said with regard to an overall strategy with regard to the management of our resources—he said it so much better and I'd just like to remind the members that this was something, as I said, that was said much better 34 years ago; nothing ever changes.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The chair recognizes the hon. member for Algoma-Manitoulin. If he would adjourn the debate.

Mr. Stokes: No, I am not finished.

Mr. Acting Speaker: I stand corrected. I do not need to have the hon. member adjourn the debate. The chair will recognize him after the dinner hour.

An hon. member: No, he is not finished.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Oh. I understood the member for Lake Nipigon had completed his remarks.

Mr. Stokes: No.

Mr. Acting Speaker: My apologies to the hon. member for Lake Nipigon; I thought he had concluded.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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No. 15

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament
Thursday, July 7, 1977
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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Hansard subscription price is \$15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Printing Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 9th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1977

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT (concluded)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 21, An Act to establish the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Acting Speaker: When we adjourned at 6 o'clock, the hon. member for Lake Nipigon was still continuing his debate. I regret again that I didn't recognize the fact that he hadn't completed. I give him the floor at this time.

Mr. Stokes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what kind of inference I should take from the word "still." However, I'll be very brief; it is not my intention to rehash anything that has been said before.

I have always been willing to co-operate with any minister and any new initiative that he might choose to take and, in keeping with this approach in my response to the announcement by the government that this new ministry was to be set up, I said: "Fine, let's give it an opportunity to work. Let's give him a shopping list and hope he will heed the advice of fellow northerners." I'm about to do that right now.

I want to give the minister a shopping list for an overall industrial and land-use strategy for all of the province of Ontario—something that we in northern Ontario can relate to and something that will reverse the trend of this ever-increasing industrialization around the Golden Horseshoe.

In order to accomplish that, I hope the minister will stop trying to import southern solutions to northern problems. All too often, we have somebody down here in the ivory tower ordaining what must be done on behalf of the north, when all of the time we as northerners know that we need initiatives, new programs and new approaches to problems in the north from a northerner's vantage point.

I'm not suggesting for one moment that we can do everything in the north in isolation. We can't be isolationists, but I often say that the problems in the north are the

result of the south having too much of what we don't have enough of in the north. If we have a better balance in the economic growth of the province, a good many of our problems would automatically be resolved in the north.

We need new programs, new incentives, to redress the high cost of doing things in the north. I know you can't do it wholly and solely on your own, I think that if we are ever going to come into our own in the north, we have to invoke the assistance and the aid of the federal government in order to redress the inequitable transportation costs in the north. I think it's fair to say that everything we do in the north costs that much more because of the tremendous distances that are involved; because we are that much farther away from the major markets; and because a lot of the suppliers for secondary and tertiary materials are located down here in the Golden Horseshoe.

The provincial government, in concert with the federal government, must rationalize and equalize, and where possible and where necessary provide incentives by way of transportation costs and tariffs in order to make the north more attractive for secondary and tertiary industry. In order to redress the balance of the high cost of living in the north, we must make every effort to equalize the cost of home heating oil and the cost of gasoline, which are so important in view of the tremendous distances that we have to travel and the unusually low temperatures that we experience in the north.

Mr. Nixon: How much is gasoline in Schreiber today?

Mr. Stokes: It is \$1.04 a gallon.

Mr. Nixon: A shame.

Mr. Stokes: In the heartland of Canada, right along the Canadian Pacific Railway and right along the main Trans-Canada Highway, we are paying anywhere from 12 to 16 cents a gallon more; this is so in my home town of Schreiber and it's even worse in some other areas.

Mr. Nixon: Schreiber, did you say?

Mr. Stokes: Schreiber, that's what I said.

Mr. Nixon: You have been converted.

Mr. Stokes: In order to attract people in ever-increasing numbers and trying to convince them that the north is a good place to live in, we must provide more money for an infrastructure for those communities that lack the economic base to do it themselves.

I read the banner story in the Toronto Star yesterday afternoon in which it was reported that the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the mayor of the city of Toronto opened a brand new recreational facility down near the Ashbridges Bay plant. Fifty per cent of the cost of that new facility—a marina, a recreational facility—50 per cent of that came from the Ministry of Natural Resources; we can't even get the money to repair a small dock in a small town like Kashabowie that doesn't have any other facility.

Mr. Nixon: My paper says "MPP's Raise Salaries 35 per cent"

Mr. McClellan: Thirty-two per cent.

Mr. Stokes: These are the kinds of approaches to problems facing people in the north to which this ministry has to address itself. We need a dramatic improvement in transportation and communications facilities in order to get the people in northern Ontario into the mainstream of things, because the distances are there. We must get people to and from their jobs more quickly and more safely. Transportation and communications is the name of the game today in northern Ontario. This is another initiative that this ministry must take.

Another initiative is to provide funding for the Unorganized Communities Association of Northwestern Ontario. The minister right now has their budget on his desk. I suspect he is trying to weasel out of it. If we are really serious about helping those 50,000 people who live in unorganized communities in northern Ontario we must be serious about providing them with the funding so that they will be in a position to help themselves. If there is any one organization that has demonstrated an ability to do things for itself wherever possible, it's that organization. The minister has recognized this for a long while and I think it's absolutely essential that he provide the necessary funding for the Unorganized Communities Associations of Northwestern and Northeastern Ontario if he is genuine and sincere in his efforts to help those people.

The final thing I would like to say to the minister is that as a result of the new initiatives, as a result of the \$120-million budget he now has, people are going to be looking to his taking new initiatives and new approaches to existing problems in the north. If he is serious, I think it's absolutely essential that meetings be convened at regular intervals

where he would seek the assistance, the counsel and the advice of the northern members of this Legislature on a regular basis, in concert with civil servants who have a primary responsibility for the delivery of services in the north, right from the assistant deputy minister level down to top civil servants such as the regional directors. I would even suggest that it might be appropriate to include the hon. member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle), who is the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, who seems to have an overview over a good many of the programs and who has the responsibility for coordinating the efforts of a good many ministries within this government.

If we were to have a vehicle whereby we could sit down together on a more or less non-partisan basis with the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes), the top level civil servants and all of the members from whatever riding of whatever political stripe in this Legislature, we should assign ourselves the task of sitting down together on a regular basis and assessing the new initiatives that will be taken by this ministry, reviewing them, adapting them to suit local conditions; then we will be well on the way to justifying the setting up and the added expenditure resulting from the creation of this new ministry with its \$120-million budget. I think that before too long we could come back and say collectively that we have done something worthwhile on behalf of the people of the north.

There is the minister's shopping list. If he is really sincere, he will have our assistance, he will have our encouragement and he will have our help. The ball is in his court; now let's get on with serving the needs of the people of northern Ontario.

Mr. Lane: I would like to make a few comments on this bill to establish a Ministry of Northern Affairs. As most members know, I have a very great interest in the bill. As a matter of fact, I think if I hadn't been so persistent, we probably wouldn't be here at this particular point in time discussing the bill.

Mr. Cunningham: You should have been the minister.

Mr. Germa: Good politics.

Mr. Lane: I was very happy last February when the Premier (Mr. Davis) announced the new ministry. I was also very happy when he announced that the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) was going to be the first minister for the north. I won't be standing behind him lecturing him the way people across the way have been this last number of hours, because

I feel he is a man of experience and a northerner. He has had several portfolios in the cabinet. I don't think he has to be lectured as to what his responsibilities are. I am sure he knows what they are. I am prepared to think he is going to carry them out with some diligence.

The only thing I will say is that if a year or two from now the ministry hasn't produced the way I think it should, then I will be on the minister's back, but not at this time.

Mr. Roy: Don't hold your breath.

Mr. Lane: I am a very honest type of an individual. I spoke in this House a couple of years ago and I spoke several times since about the need for this ministry. The first elected member to agree with me in the House was the member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid). I am sorry that he is not here tonight to hear me make a good comment about him.

Mr. Cunningham: He's planting trees.

Mr. Lane: He did say about a year and a half ago that he was listening to what I was saying and that we did need this type of a ministry for the north. Last night I didn't altogether agree with everything that he said, but he said much that made considerable sense and I still feel he supports the ministry in total.

[8:15]

I was a little upset last night to hear the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) make some negative remarks about the ministry. Of course his being a southerner I suppose I can excuse him. He was saying out of one side of his mouth that this should have happened many years ago, but he's saying out of the other side that it won't work. How do we know it's not going to work until we try it? I've heard that so many times that I'm getting a little confused as to—

Mr. Roy: Your track record is no hell.

Mr. Lane: —how people make decisions before the event.

Last night the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) read at some length a very negative type of editorial. I'm not going to do that tonight, but I am going to read just a little bit of an editorial here because it concerns Elliot Lake. The member seems to feel that I'm not a very welcome visitor to Elliot Lake in spite of the fact that I won it on June 9. While the member from Sudbury is not in his seat, I'm sure he'll read the record tomorrow. He used to practically live there, but since the 1975 election he only goes back as a guest speaker, so he really hasn't got too much interest in Elliot Lake after all.

In any case, on January 8, 1976, which was some 13 months before the ministry came into

being, the editorial of the Elliot Lake Standard said: "John Lane MPP Algoma-Manitoulin, is on our New Year's honour list. He deserves a bouquet for his recent proposal concerning the Ministry for Northern Ontario." I'm not going to read any more.

I could read more. Do you want me to read more?

Mr. Roy: No, no; please.

Mr. Leluk: Albert, are you the new leader over there?

Mr. Roy: It's got to be nauseating when you read your own editorials.

Mr. Lane: It goes on to say: "It's to Mr. Lane's credit that he has glimpsed what could be possible with such a ministry. Now would everyone who is interested back up the MPP with a letter to support this very worthy New Year's cause."

Many of the people who have had a lot to say about this ministry have done nothing about it really. I've talked about it a lot. I went on radio with the major of Sudbury a year ago last January and the mayor of that time supported me in it. I went on TV with the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) last winter, on the Judy LaMarsh Program, and we discussed it there. I sent out over 300 letters to municipalities, Indian bands, Chambers of Commerce, Women's Institutes and other groups in the north, and out of the replies I got 75 per cent of them supported the ministry, 11 per cent said no we don't need it and 14 per cent said we'd like the idea but we want to have more information about it. That's a little bit about the effort that I've put into it. Some of the people who are being very critical of it at this point in time have really not put any effort into it at all except to criticize it.

I have been communicating with the people. I know that they do want it, and I'm a little disturbed to think that the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and the member for Sudbury East have both taken a great amount of time in this House and other places to write and talk about the need not being there, they don't want anything to happen. Yet I know that these guys are good members. They know what the needs are in northern Ontario, the same as most other northern members do, the same as I do.

Mr. McClellan: Support the amendments.

Mr. Lane: But unfortunately they don't want anything done about it.

Mr. McClellan: Support the amendments.

Mr. Wildman: Yes; we want amendments, John.

Mr. Lane: So they fought me when I was trying to get the ministry formed. I can

excuse the leader, Mr. Lewis, because he was not a northerner but I have no excuse for the northern people. They knew why the ministry was needed but they fought me; and they lost out, because on February 3 Premier Davis brought the ministry into being. So then they started to fight the minister and tried to discredit the minister. When they found out that he was a very popular man up north and the people wouldn't buy that, they tried to discredit the locations.

When Mr. Lewis was in Sault Ste. Marie one day during the election, somebody asked him about the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the location, and somebody said, where would you have put it? He said, "I couldn't have made a better choice myself." Yet that is not what we hear from across the street.

Mr. Germa: Whose riding was that?

Mr. Philip: No one was trying to tell you where to put it, John.

Mr. Lane: I have heard it said that the offices were put in Kenora and Sault Ste. Marie for political reasons.

Mr. Germa: That is not pork-barrelling, eh?

Mr. Wildman: You don't recall him saying that.

Mr. Leluk: Not your riding, Bud.

Mr. Lane: The Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and the Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) had no trouble getting re-elected. If we wanted to make political marks, we would have put it some place where we wanted to win a seat. Obviously that was not the reason for where it is.

Mr. Germa: That is not how you work; pork-barrelling.

Mr. Cunningham: To keep the seat.

Mr. Lane: I am not going to talk at any length tonight, because too many people have talked too long already. The north is very near and dear to me, as I have said. I have worked hard to get this ministry. Many hon. members have heard me speak on many occasions, and I have had a fair bit of support from a number of them. But I'm concerned about two members of the third party who have really taken me to task several times—not the two that I have mentioned. I heard one gentleman say last night that he would vote for the bill on second reading but he would vote against it on third reading unless the minister adopted the five or six amendments he wanted to make. To that gentleman, and to all hon. members, I say that I have read this bill, and it is broad enough and good enough to cover the things that need to be done under this ministry. I

challenge the people of the third party to vote against this bill on third reading.

Mr. Roy: I just want to make a few comments on the bill, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Germa: Are you running for office?

Mr. Roy: No, I am not running for office. It is just that I find it somewhat nauseating to hear some of the things coming from across the House, and I think we should put some things on record about what some of my colleagues have been saying. Frankly, I thought that the member for Rainy River (Mr. Reid) made an excellent speech last night; he pointed out some of the things that were of concern.

I have listened to the speeches of some of my colleagues on my left and, although they were critical, they have reason to be critical about some of the things that go on in this area. I especially underline what the member for Sudbury said about section 8 of the bill and the powers that are given under the regulations; that always concerns me. I think those were valid comments he made about the ministry, and I don't see why the member for Algoma-Manitoulin should get all exercised because some member is critical about a particular part of a bill. My colleague the member for London Centre also made certain comments, which I think were very valid as well.

The government has a history of creating ministries which are supposed to get things together and make them more efficient, but the plans never work out that way. This whole policy secretariat was supposed to be most efficient, and yet year after year was are wasting \$5 million. More than ever, I am convinced that the reason for these ministries is basically to keep a few people in good jobs, to keep these people at the proper salary of \$40 000 or whatever a minister gets. We have told the government that this approach doesn't work, and the government has admitted it doesn't work.

This Ministry of Northern Affairs, as my colleague from London Centre has said, is supposed to be going to take away things from certain ministries and develop a cohesive approach to the north. But, as he has pointed out, we don't see any reduction in any other ministry. I think he raises something that is very valid: If we are going to take some things from other ministries and develop a cohesive approach how come there is no reduction in the other ministries? I think these are valid comments.

Mr. Breithaupt: Because the whole is greater than its parts.

Mr. Roy: I don't intend to spend too much time on this, Mr. Speaker, but I think I must say this for the record: It may well be, as some of my colleagues around here have said, that the Ministry of Northern Affairs is a good thing. But what makes us cynical on this side is that this ministry was created a short time before the election. We know that the Premier and the people on that side of the House are prepared to say anything come election time.

Mr. Cunningham: You can say that again.

Mr. Roy: And if one wants evidence of that, just look at the charter. There is the best evidence of that. It is a political thing, and, although it may well have some merit, what makes us extremely cynical on this side is that at the same time as he was creating a Ministry of Northern Affairs, the Premier named the member for Kenora as the Minister of Northern Affairs.

That's where, in my opinion, there is a contradiction. How can the Premier be dedicated and say he is objective in his approach and wants to do something for the north when he puts in there somebody, as my colleague from Rainy River said, whose track record is as bad as his? That's where there is a lack of credibility. I think that has to go on the record because of the minister's record in the past. He can make all the signs he wants but he knows what he is. He has failed in other ministries and they found him a job and he should feel very fortunate to have that job. That's basically what it is.

Mr. Grossman: He is competent; don't you wish you could feel the same? Eat your heart out.

Mr. Roy: I don't want to get into the minister's track record and relate some of the things he said about provincial parks, as well as his record on pollution and on the question of miners.

Mr. Pope: You had better talk about something else.

Mr. Roy: I'm not afraid of saying it. He can't come back on me. In my riding, I don't think he can do very much.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You are not responsible, that is why.

Mr. Roy: I am not responsible? Do you know what you are? You are a political reject, that's what you are. They have given you a job and if I was you—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we could debate the principle of the bill.

Mr. Roy: I think that is the principle of the bill, that minister there.

Mr. Pope: Maybe some day we will take a shot at you too.

Mr. Roy: Frankly, Mr. Speaker, these things have to be said. I think the less the minister says when he is sitting there to the comments he gets from various members, the better it should be, because he is very fortunate to have that job. Certainly he doesn't deserve it and his record is not one which would encourage or make anybody enthusiastic about giving him that position.

Maybe I'm wrong, and I hope the minister proves I am wrong and becomes a success, but I tell him I am not all that optimistic when I look at some of the things that happened in the past.

I want to say, and I think it should go on the record, that my colleague from Rainy River said the person who might save the minister is his deputy. I really hope so. Looking at his record in various ministries and some of the things he has done, I can't be all that hopeful or I can't be all that enthusiastic about the government's dedication towards the north.

Mr. Germa: I would be remiss in my duties if I didn't rise to speak on this bill, even though a lot of words have already flowed on the bill, but as the representative of Sudbury, the pearl city of northern Ontario, it is incumbent on me to bring some views to the Legislature on the introduction of this bill. It is important, before we go to the bill, to understand the political realities that surrounded the introduction of this particular piece of legislation. It is not my style to impute motives—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The understatement of the year.

Mr. Germa: —but I am highly suspicious of the motivation behind the introduction of this bill.

If we look at reality we have the Conservative Party in northern Ontario facing decimation. They have to pull the fat out of the fire in a hurry in order to maintain any semblance of credibility in the northern part of the province. They searched and searched through their bag of tricks and came up with the trick known as the Ministry of Northern Affairs, which in my mind is going to turn out to be the ministry of false hope.

From this false hope I think will come further violent resentment from northern Ontario. We must also understand that the resentment of northern Ontario is so high that we have a party in northern Ontario led by a Conservative who advocates separation of the northern part of the province from the southern part of the province. This movement is

growing. It's unfortunate that this government has seen fit to neglect the northern part of the province to the degree that there are a group of people who would advocate separatism, balkanization of the province.

This government just fails to come through with programs which are going to alleviate the alienation. I am sure the minister knows that the leader of this separatist party, Mr. Diebel, a Tory from North Bay, is on the North Bay council as of this moment. He is now in a political position to push further his advocacy of separation. This is the kind of problem we in northern Ontario have been facing as a result of the lost direction of the Conservative Party.

[8:30]

To elaborate further on this feeling of resentment, in Sudbury on February 5, 1975, there was a conference called at Laurentian University and many dignitaries came from all over Canada to speak to us about regional development in the northern part of the province. One of the dignitaries there was Mr. G. L. Ruber, who is the chairman of the Ontario Economic Council. He had toured northern Ontario from Kenora to Moose Factory and when he was addressing this conference in Sudbury just one year ago, he said these words, and I'm quoting:

"I further concluded that the sense of frustration in northern Ontario is very deep, and indeed, in many instances verges on bitterness. This bitterness is rooted in the sense of being neglected by southern Ontario."

And this man by no stretch of the imagination can be called a rebel. But the government has given us no choice in northern Ontario. The only choice that I have as a northerner is to remain a victim or become a rebel, and I have chosen to become a rebel. I just refuse to accept any more of the dictates that have come out of this government for the past 34 years.

The minister chosen, while he is a very affable fellow and is well known in northern Ontario, he's criss-crossed the northern part of the province demonstrating his incompetence, and I'm sure that he will continue to demonstrate his lack of capacity to do the job that is called for from him.

Mr. Cunningham: Leo for governor.

Mr. Germa: If you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, the task that this government has handed this person. He's going to be an expert on welfare, an expert on health, an expert on transportation; on the 24 ministries. This man is supposed, by some magic of a piece of legislation, to acquire the expertise to deliver all of the services of all the various

ministries of the province of Ontario. I would suggest that all that was required was that the ministers who were then in place should have seen that the services were delivered, then we would not have the necessity of this secondary level of bureaucracy. To think that we have to put our faith in this kind of a Mickey Mouse program is just something that I reject.

The bill, the way it stands now, is absolutely empty and devoid of any purposes. If my friends to the right have the courage of their convictions, I'm sure they will come forward, when the amendments are put forward by the member for Sudbury East, to give this bill a little backbone, to give this minister something to be responsible for, to give this minister a challenge through which he's going to have to correct the situation in northern Ontario.

One of the major problems I see in the north that the minister has to address himself to is the one-industry town. Many dozens of towns in northern Ontario grow because of a forest, they grow because of an ore body and there's no other purpose for their existence. We all know that once you start mining an ore body that every ton is one ton closer to the last ton. We have not taken any precautions to ensure that these towns will have any viability once the ore body has been depleted.

At the conference I was speaking of in February, 1976, one of the other people who addressed us was a person in a position of influence in the city of Sudbury, Mr. Andrew Lacroix, who is the chairman of the Sudbury Regional Development Corporation. In his address to the assembly he tried to enunciate a policy that the government of Ontario could adopt. He said that the government of Ontario, were it to adopt the policy that he was writing, would go a long way to solving the problems which we are facing.

The ghost towns that were mentioned are not really ghost towns in the sense that no one lives there any more, but the people who do live there do so without purpose. The only thing that moves in the town is when somebody moves around the corner of the building to stay in the sunshine. There's nothing else to do.

Anyway, Mr. Lacroix said that the policy that should be adopted should read in this fashion, and I'm quoting now:

"It is this government's policy to ensure that maximum benefits are returned to the areas producing non-renewable resources before these resources are depleted, the objective being to reinvest a sufficient portion of the benefits derived from such primary in-

dustries to ensure that the communities will be able to maintain a real and useful existence without external aid as these resources become depleted."

That is the kind of a city that I was born and grew up in. I know that the day is coming when the 100,000 people in the city of Sudbury are going to face absolute unemployment because we know that while the ore body has existed for some 40 or 50 years, its life expectancy right now is something between 20 and 30 years. And yet not one step has been taken to ensure that there is going to be a continuance of economic activity in the city of Sudbury once the ore body is depleted.

Another problem facing many of the communities in the north is the fact that we are a branch plant economy. Whether we're a branch plant economy of the United States or a branch plant economy of the southern part of the province makes no difference, because by being in that position, the wealth generated as the result of the extraction of the resource is removed from the area from whence it was derived.

We know from long experience that a town or a city is just not a viable community on miners' wages or lumberworkers' wages. We need the high wages of executives. We need the high wages of research. We need the high wages of development. And yet we have been treated just like slaves in that our job is to produce the wealth and remove it from the community; and consequently the services which we enjoy, or which we do not enjoy, are just not available.

The regional municipality of Sudbury right now is \$131 million in debt. In the past 12 months, they have not been able to do one capital project because they have reached the maximum of their borrowing powers. If they were to proceed further, I'm sure they would have to go into receivership. This is a city which has produced millions of tons of nickel, copper and 13 other elements over the past 50 years; and yet here we sit today, absolutely strapped as far as cash is concerned.

The lack of medical services has been cited very often in this House and I would just like to bring a couple of statistics to the attention of the House. I've spoken to this problem before, and that is the problem of expert medical services in the city of Sudbury.

In the area of cancer, the Princess Margaret Hospital is the centrepiece of the government of Ontario's cancer treatment program; and yet we know that there are more than 500 people, new patients, who are discovered yearly and are brought to Toronto

in order to receive treatment. Despite the fact it was brought to the attention of the government by the Cancer Institute of Ontario that no further construction should go ahead in Toronto—that this should be diversified into the northern part of the province—in 1976 we have 199 new cancer patients from Sudbury district, 80 from Timiskaming district, 127 from Algoma district, 119 from Cochrane. Right there is a catchment area with enough patients to make viable a cancer institute in the city of Sudbury or some part of northeastern Ontario.

This is part of the source of alienation and part of the reason why the people in northern Ontario are alienated. I just resent that because we were facing an election, the Premier (Mr. Davis), on February 3, got up and made this great announcement about the appointment of this ministry. I think in his statement to the House he identifies why something had to be done. In his statement he said:

"Northern Ontario, which encompasses almost 90 per cent of the land area of Ontario, being larger in size than the four Maritime provinces, houses one-tenth of the province's population." That is the problem which the government has not addressed itself to. The expanse of northern Ontario, the miles that we have to travel, the expense of travel, the climatic conditions—all have not been addressed. Yet the government puts in a program like this which is not going to solve the problem. Considering the economics and the wealth that is produced up there, is it any wonder I've chosen to be a rebel rather than a victim?

The Premier went on to say: "Its economic importance is highlighted by the fact that the value of the province's tourism, forest and mineral production from northern Ontario totalled almost \$5 billion in 1976."

That is the result of our work—\$5 billion a year. Yet you've heard the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) tell you that the dental car makes its circuit once every seven years. Every seven years, in some parts of Ontario, a dentist might come to your community so that you can receive service.

I don't know why the northern part of the province hasn't separated long ago.

Mr. Stokes: We have a dental car service that is putting partial plates into the mouths of Grade 8 students.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is not the government's fault. It is from eating chips and pop.

Mr. Germa: Those are my feelings on this particular bill. I would hope that the government, when it hears the amendments, will

consider accepting the amendments so that this minister will have some responsibility to deliver.

The way it is now, it just seems to be a pasture for the minister. It's a retread job. We know that he was finished in his other portfolio. His incompetence there was demonstrated in the Elliot Lake debacle; the sinter plant debacle in Sudbury; the debacle in the asbestos mill in Matachewan; and the mercury pollution in the English and Wabigoon river systems. The history of death and destruction that this minister has allowed to happen in northern Ontario just does not recommend him to this particular job.

Mr. Acting Speaker: The hon. member for Cochrane South.

Mr. Pope: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise to present, on behalf of my riding of Cochrane South, my support for this bill. I do not think any members of this House perceive this bill as a total solution of special problems which we in northern Ontario face, but rather as an instrument on the ministerial and administrative level through which the demands of the people of northern Ontario and their representatives in this House may be forcefully presented. It will increase the commitment of other ministries of this government to northern Ontario and help to make the programs of their respective ministries work in northern Ontario.

The bill will also be an addition to the efforts of the members of this House, from all political parties, who represent the people of northern Ontario. I, for one, do not intend to have all of my requests for government action and assistance to my riding and to northern Ontario merely denied by other ministries because it is not in their jurisdiction, or slotted solely into one ministry, namely the Ministry of Northern Affairs. Nor do I perceive this as the intention of the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

The intention of the Ministry of Northern Affairs is to be in daily contact, on an administrative level, with other departments; and with our minister in cabinet dealing with other ministers, the ministry will be acting as a watershed for the special problems of northern Ontario. Through this process, the perception of the people of northern Ontario of their government and its ministers will be brought, perhaps, more forcefully to the attention of the government.

[8:45]

There can be no doubt, as was described in the Ontario Economic Council report of 1976 on northern Ontario development, that northern Ontario faces problems with the

pattern of urban settlement presently determined by resource availability, transportation systems and industrial services. This kind of development has resulted in dispersed settlement throughout northern Ontario. The result is isolation and lower labour force participation than in any other part of the province. In fact, it appears clear that growth of industrial output has not been matched by growth of employment resulting from this increased output. It is also clear that as a result of these problems, population growth is slower in northern Ontario than in the province as a whole.

However, I do not accept the concept advanced by the Ontario Economic Council that the government has a limited influence in determining the rate and pattern of regional development due to the limited capacity of the government to influence the environment of the north. I note with some satisfaction that the government believes it does have a great capacity to influence regional development. In fact the new ministry will have ministerial responsibility in many areas which will influence regional development, including the allocation of regional priority grants, the development of townsites, the development of resource transportation programs, the proliferation and improvement of resource access roads, aid and assistance to isolated communities, priorities for northern road construction programs, direct control over the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, input into the provision of basic municipal services, development of industrial parks, and a setting up of regional and district offices to more adequately serve the people of northern Ontario.

It is true that in terms of conditional and unconditional grants to municipalities, and special northern Ontario assistance grants, together with other programs sponsored by the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, northern Ontario in some aspects does get special consideration and certainly a higher level of subsidization for municipal services, municipalities and boards of education than is available elsewhere in the province. But to understand the magnitude of financial assistance and special government consideration that is required, we must remember that northern Ontario comprises 90 per cent of the total land area of Ontario. Consider that point when comparing special grants made available to northern Ontario municipalities and boards of education in proportion to the total financial commitment to all municipalities in Ontario.

It is also true that the commitment of the Ministry of Health to pay five-sixths of the cost of construction, rather than two-thirds as is the case in other areas of the province, is also recognition of special problems in northern Ontario. But again, compare basic health services in the north and those in the rest of Ontario, and the distances that must be travelled by the people of northern Ontario to obtain basic health services.

Mr. Stokes: You sound like Bill Ferrier.

Mr. Pope: A comparison will reveal the amount of services and facilities in health care that are available and easily accessible to the people of southern Ontario.

Mr. Reid: There's a man who should cross the floor.

Mr. Pope: I, as a representative—you do need another representative from northern Ontario over there—

Mr. Reid: We do.

Mr. Pope: I, as a representative from Cochrane South, on behalf of the people of Timmins, Iroquois Falls, Black River, Matheson, Ramore and Holtyre, am aware of the areas in which I feel this government must move, through the Ministry of Northern Affairs as a co-ordinating body and through the other ministries—

Mr. Mackenzie: We'll see how much they do move.

Mr. Pope: —if we are truly to establish economic prosperity and social opportunity for the people of northern Ontario.

For instance, it is clear that northern Ontario retailers pay approximately eight per cent of the total retail price of food products for transportation, whereas the average percentage cost for transportation in southern Ontario is approximately five per cent.

Mr. Cunningham: Leo will fix that.

Mr. Pope: This disparity is not reflected in all food products, as there are many food products on which there is one unit price throughout all of Ontario. However, there are food products which do reflect this disparity.

In addition, while we hear much discussion from all members of all parties in this House concerning the loss of agricultural land in southern Ontario, there exists in northern Ontario a vast potential for economic agricultural production which has not as yet been fully utilized. In fact, we have in my riding, specifically around the towns of Matheson, Val Gagne and Iroquois Falls, and in the Connaught area, lands which were originally granted under The Veterans' Land Act program to our veterans for agricultural purposes; yet because of the economy of size

in an age of agricultural mechanization, and because of a lack of marketing facilities and opportunities in northern Ontario, these lands have been abandoned and reverted to either the provincial government or to the municipalities in my riding.

One of the first priorities for the Ministry of Northern Affairs, as I see it, is the establishment in northeastern Ontario of a northern Ontario food terminal, which would not only relieve the pressure on the Ontario food terminal in Toronto but which would cut down on transportation costs, borne both by the northern Ontario consumer and by all the consumers of Ontario. A local farmer could then sell his product to the food terminal in northern Ontario, thereby cutting down his transportation costs. Also, a wholesaler operating through such a food terminal could cut down on his transportation costs, and therefore costs of food products sold to the retail chains in northern Ontario.

Of equal importance, the establishment of a food terminal would stimulate agricultural development and research in northeastern Ontario and lead once again to a viable agricultural industry in the Cochrane clay belt, one of the most fertile agricultural areas in Ontario, indeed in Canada.

Regarding the question of energy, I see one priority of the Ministry of Northern Affairs has been the development, through the investment of the Ontario Energy Corporation, of direct flow generation facilities—that is, electrical plants which generate electricity from the direct current of streams and rivers situated in northeastern and northwestern Ontario—and through the development of lignite deposits in northeastern Ontario.

We in the north, I submit, suffer more from high heating costs than other regions of the province. Indeed, heating costs of \$600 for a three-month period in the wintertime are not uncommon for a young family to bear. The question arises as to the means by which heating costs can be held down, without reducing our potential for development of new energy sources in the future by a short-sighted program of economic cutbacks.

I believe that the new Ministry of Northern Affairs should have some input to the Ministry of Energy regarding current and future commitments of the Ontario Energy Corporation to northern Ontario. Such development would also create more jobs for the people in my riding and add to the general economic well-being of the entire region.

I believe that, particularly in the area of transportation, the new Ministry of Northern

Affairs should have some impact. I suggest that the Ministry of Northern Affairs immediately re-examine the system of per capita allocations, regional allocations and traffic count systems which are presently used to determine road construction, road maintenance, road by-passes, bridge construction and the installation of traffic lights in northern Ontario. Southern Ontario standards simply cannot be used to determine the needs in northern Ontario. Total daily traffic counts do not indicate in any way the problems faced by workers heading to and from Texasgulf, for instance, in the city of Timmins at specific peak times.

Mr. Wildman: You see all the problems, why don't you do something about them?

Mr. Pope: I see all the problems and I see that they have existed for a long time, and I see that you fellows have done nothing about it. You have done nothing about it except bitch.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: And he's going to do something about it.

An hon. member: You have been the government for 34 years.

Interjections.

Mr. Mackenzie: You want to be careful about what you say about your colleagues.

Mr. Germa: That just tells me how rotten that gang is.

Mr. Pope: Financial allocations for the construction of a two-lane highway, such as Highway 144, do not indicate in any way the actual needs for wider shoulders and wider pavement required because of drain and weather conditions faced by the people of northern Ontario.

Mr. Germa: It's worse than I thought it was.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Ottawa Valley northerner; how long have you been up there, two years?

Mr. Wildman: Oh come on, 10 years.

Mr. Pope: Allocations for road maintenance must not only be based on usage but also be based on the real need for access roads for the people of northern Ontario. As well, the special problems in maintaining pavements because of weather conditions and heavy frost in northern Ontario must be considered.

There is a real job ahead of the Ministry of Northern Affairs in aligning the transportation systems presently under the control of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications—namely, norOntair and the Ontario Northland railroad—with the transportation systems by road, air or rail present-

ly under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

The norOntair flight schedule is out of date and there are no easy connecting flights in Sudbury and North Bay at the present time. Also, Air Canada has recently indicated it is changing not only its time schedule but also its routing system throughout northern Ontario. The north urgently needs a study of the existing norOntair structure and the possible future demands of additional air service, including jet air service, in view of some attempts by Air Canada in the past few years to withdraw its services from northern Ontario.

The new Northlander train, which is so ably serving the people of Iroquois Falls, Porquis Junction and Matheson in my riding, must continue to be improved. Specifically, some agreement must be finalized with the federal government to enable the Northlander to use the tracks between North Bay and Toronto at the proper speed for which the train was intended and purchased.

The policies of the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission must not only be to improve their service to the people of northeastern Ontario, but also to expand that service as one of the major transportation centres in northeastern Ontario. It is, and must continue to be, involved in the Timmins region. One of the principles upon which the Ontario Northland Railroad was developed, and which needs to continue, was the need for that railroad to be a development railroad for all of northeastern Ontario.

The question of freight rate reductions is one that has been brought before this House and has been discussed by the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission on many occasions. Not only must the freight rate structure be reviewed in co-ordination with a review of the federal freight rate structure, but also any reduction must be an across-the-board reduction. Further, it must be accompanied by renegotiation of all shipping and supply contracts in northeastern Ontario, and not passed on to all retailers throughout Ontario or allocated to the profit margin of suppliers or wholesalers operating in southern Ontario. Perhaps the Ministry of Northern Affairs should initiate consideration of a unit rate structure or radii freight rate system, which will make freight rates meaningful, realistic and competitive and which will lead to an atmosphere in the transportation industry which will encourage development of processing and marketing operations in northern Ontario.

Regarding the matter of freight rates, unless there is some immediate improvement in

the freight rate structures in the trucking industry in northern Ontario it will, I respectfully submit, be time for the Ministry of Northern Affairs to reconsider the use of PCV licensing systems in northern Ontario and to consider opening up the transportation of goods to any and all trucking operations which meet safety standards.

Mr. Wildman: Read the select committee report.

Mr. Pope: I note with some satisfaction that the Northern Ontario Development Corporation, between the years 1971 and 1977, allocated \$62 million to 424 companies and operations in northern Ontario. While this is a good sign of the commitment of this financing institution operated by the government of Ontario for development in the north, it should be put in the context of the kind of commitment, as previously mentioned, that this government has instituted in the Oshawa area through the \$240-million North Pickering project to encourage industrial development. Perhaps it is time for the Ministry of Northern Affairs to prepare the groundwork for similar provincial commitments to development in northern Ontario.

I would like to add that passing money holus-bolus into northern Ontario is not the answer to financial difficulties. We must ensure that investment will increase economic growth and expand social opportunities. We must ensure that any industrial activity which is encouraged to locate in northern Ontario will be met with a favourable economic climate, which must include access to Hydro, water, lands, financing institutions and realistic transportation at an affordable cost.

All of the items which I have just mentioned are matters in which the Ontario government now has a real voice as far as policy and costs are concerned. It is therefore clear at this point in time that the Ontario government can to a real extent control the development of industrial growth in northern Ontario. It, therefore rests upon this government to seriously consider development of economic growth in northern Ontario, and hopefully the Minister of Northern Affairs will provide the detailed basis upon which such development can take place.

Hopefully the new Ministry of Northern Affairs will also play a role in the development of tourism and tourist facilities in northern Ontario, specifically in northeastern Ontario. I note with regret that the James Bay frontier is the only travel association which does not have a tourist development zone within its boundaries. Hopefully the Ministry of Northern Affairs will play a role in the

development and progress of these tourism development areas.

In summary, this government has done much to improve the quality of life for the people of northern Ontario. The people of northern Ontario recognize the improvement, which was particularly noticeable in the last election. However, having established a sound funding basis for basic municipal services and for the continued operation of other municipal organizations and boards of education in northern Ontario, it is now time to move on to other areas of concern. With government action and the prodding of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, hopefully we will get some improvement in food costs, heating costs and housing costs, as well as increasing economic diversification and industrial development in northeastern Ontario, which will be a benefit directly to the people of northeastern Ontario by providing more jobs and better jobs. In short, by establishing in northern Ontario a sound economy the province of Ontario will also benefit.

[9:00]

The province must build the north so that it does not need subsidization by the central provincial government but will stand on its own and contribute through taxation to the economic livelihood of its own communities, and therefore benefit all the people of Ontario. The north was developed by people who went north during the Depression years to find a job, people who wanted to live in the bush or closer to it or who ended up in the north by chance. The north was developed by companies which wanted to invest their money there. The north was developed by working men and women who worked day shift, afternoon shift and graveyard shift to make enough money to get by on and to secure some economic future for themselves and their children. Their working and living conditions, and their pay for their work, improved as a result of their own efforts and those of the companies and union locals in the north.

This tradition of hard work and strong independence now falls upon us. Recognizing significant contributions this government has made to the north, we must now develop new programs and new ideas in order to bring permanence, security, diversified economic development and cultural and social opportunity to our northland.

This ministry is only the beginning. If it is greeted with a sense of realism and goodwill it can be a significant beginning.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members.

Mr. Wildman: I am pleased to participate in this debate on the bill to establish a Minis-

try of Northern Affairs. I should make clear at the outset that I support the bill in principle.

However, as it is written it is rather vague and general and doesn't really set out exactly what the purpose of the ministry is except in very general terms. As a result, I will certainly support the amendments to be put forward by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) when we get to the committee stage. I would hope that the other members of the House would consider them carefully and also support them in order to give the ministry some teeth, some power to do something about the problems in the north.

Obviously, the establishment of such a ministry by this government after 34 years in power is an explicit admission of its failure and the failures of the various other ministries to serve the very serious needs of northerners. If other ministries were doing their jobs and delivering the services necessary in northern Ontario, then we wouldn't need a geographically-based ministry rather than one based on function as all the other ministries of this government are.

We have suggested something like a super-ministry, to deal with problems that come under jurisdiction of all of the other ministries but covering one area of the province, because those other ministries just haven't done the job. But then when the bill is brought up the ministry isn't given the power, or at least it doesn't say how it is going to use whatever powers it might have, as a result of regulations, to bring about the needed development we desire in northern Ontario.

When the minister introduced the bill he said this was an example of a renewed commitment—I think those were the words he used—of the Conservatives towards northern Ontario problems. I really can't see that it is a renewed commitment. The only member on the other side of the House who really deserves any credit for the final admission that the government hadn't been doing the job it should be doing in northern Ontario is my colleague and neighbour from Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane). I will quite readily admit it was through his serious campaign over the last couple of years throughout northern Ontario and at Queen's Park that the government finally agreed to set up this kind of ministry. I realize he was talking about this ministry as a result of the fact that the government had had this kind of ministry before, or at least a branch of another ministry in this role, and then decided it didn't need it. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin had decided it obviously was needed.

Mr. Mancini: I thought it was the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle) who did that.

Mr. Wildman: Frankly, I am sorry the member is not here, because I want to commend him on his persistence in saying that something had to be done and that this ministry might be a way of doing what was necessary in northern Ontario.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I feel very sorry for the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, that after all of his hard work in trying to persuade the government to set up this ministry, he should see someone else appointed to the job when previously he had been the only northern Conservative who did not have a cabinet post. It being his idea and with all of his work, it must be a terrible disappointment for the member for Algoma-Manitoulin not to have the opportunity to try and make it work.

Mr. Mancini: Just terrible.

Mr. Davison: Give it up, it's the least you could do.

Mr. Swart: For the people of Ontario, particularly in the north.

An hon. member: Let John have it.

Mr. Wildman: Having said that, I can understand why the member for Algoma-Manitoulin was so much in favour of having this, Mr. Speaker, and having this kind of ministry.

I hearken back to the comments he made last session during the debates on the estimates of the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development, where he used language which I guess was not very parliamentary, but he had had a bad day and it had been a long debate. He said that this government, and the investors of the province and the people of the province in southern Ontario, at least generally, tend to treat northern Ontario as if it were—well, I won't use the term he used, but let's say a part of the anatomy which usually is sat upon in relation to the rest of the province.

The member, I think, really did express the situation for northerners and the way this government has treated the north generally over the last 34 years, and I commend him for his hard work in finally persuading the government to see a little sense. It's unfortunate he couldn't persuade the government and the various ministers and their ministries to respond to the needs of the north without the need for this bill, Mr. Speaker. He was unable to, but at least he got this far.

The problem with this bill as it is presented, Mr. Speaker, is as I said it doesn't really have any specifics in it. It doesn't say

how the government intends to use this ministry to co-ordinate development in northern Ontario.

In sections 7 and 8 of the bill it suggests that under regulations all of the things the ministry will do will be set out at some future date and how they will go about doing them will be set out. That's hardly satisfactory, I think Mr. Speaker. If a ministry is going to be created surely we should have some idea of how it is going to operate and what it is going to do specifically, so that we can judge better whether or not it is going to serve the purposes for which it is established.

Hon. W. Newman: It's a lot more than you'll ever do.

Mr. Foulds: Go back to the funnies, Bill, just keep reading.

Mr. Wildman: Anyway, I think this ministry needs power. I think it needs the power to do something and it needs the funds to do something.

We've heard a lot about the various problems of the north and the debate has gone on for a long time. I won't go into a lot of them, but considering that I represent a riding that is 400 miles long—one of the largest ridings in the province covering a large expanse of northern Ontario—I think I should relate some of the specific problems in my area that this ministry and this bill, if it is to be effective, must respond to.

As has been said many times, it was also mentioned I think by the new member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) and various other members, the main problem we have in northern Ontario is that we have a resource-based economy that is in most communities based on one industry. When that industry runs out, the community is almost bankrupt.

Some of the comments made earlier in this debate regarding a town that is the second largest community in my riding, Blind River, I think deserve comment. It was stated that the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) said that Blind River was a ghost town. He didn't say that. He commented about the problems in northern towns and the fact that once the resource is gone many towns become ghost towns. Then he went on to talk about the need for industry in Blind River.

Blind River, as everyone knows, is not a ghost town. It's a very vibrant little community. The comment made in this debate by the member for Nipissing (Mr. Bolan), that you can't even see a cat going up and down the street in Blind River is a bit extreme; sometimes you even see "Venturi's" walking up and down the street in Blind River.

There are a large number of people in Blind River, many of whom work in Elliot Lake and commute every day—

Mr. Mancini: What about the member for Sudbury (Mr. Germa)?

Mr. Wildman: —fifty miles one way, because this government refuses to build a road from Blind River directly to Elliot Lake, a road that is often referred to as the Granary Lake Road.

During the campaign the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) came into Blind River, just before the election, and commented that the ministry would review the need for that road.

I wonder what role this new ministry will have in those kinds of reviews. It's not really set out in this bill. I'm glad to see that the government is finally coming to its senses and is going to review it, but after this road has been in demand for 20 years, I wonder why it took until two days prior to an election for this government to see the need. That road would cut the distance between the two centres to about 19 miles and would be for the economies of both communities, not just for the commuters who are working in Elliot Lake and living in Blind River.

Blind River needs industry; it's without any major industry. There are some new possibilities there now, but it needs industry. This ministry has to be given the power and the funds to produce secondary industry in northern Ontario; otherwise it will remain resource-based, and communities will remain one-industry towns that are dependent upon a resource—either forest resources or mineral resources—which when depleted creates a situation in which the economy and the jobs disappear. As long as we are resource-based, we will not have the kind of job opportunities that our youth need in northern Ontario; they will continue to leave the north and travel to southern Ontario for jobs and our population will continue to drop.

As the member for Cochrane South indicated, the population is not growing in northeastern Ontario; not only is it not growing it's dropping, while the rest of the province is growing in population. We have congestion down here, we have the need for jobs up there. This ministry has an opportunity to change that situation, if it has the power and the funds to produce diversification in the economies of northern Ontario communities.

One of the major reasons we are generally without secondary industry in northern Ontario; the transportation costs, long distances and the discriminatory freight rates alluded to in the debate.

It costs less to purchase plywood that is produced in Hearst, in Milwaukee than it does to purchase it in Hornepayne. Hornepayne is 85 miles from Hearst and Milwaukee is considerably farther than that. That is hardly conducive to the development of a good construction industry in northern Ontario. How are you ever going to develop any kind of integrated economy when you have a freight rate structure which makes it easier to transport unfinished products out of northern Ontario than finished products, makes it more expensive to start any kind of industry and makes it very difficult—especially with our capital markets as they are now—for any small entrepreneur to start a business and to get going.

The member for Cochrane South alluded to some of the problems of highway transportation as it relates to freight rates, and I would just say, for his benefit, that he should do some work over the summer recess and read the select committee report on the highway transportation of goods and he would see a very different recommendation than the one he made to the government here in that report. We don't need to have chaos in the transportation industry in order to have development in northern Ontario. What we need is a concentrated effort by this government to rationalize freight rates, to ensure that the transportation facilities are available in the north—

Interjections.

Mr. Philip: He knows a lot more about transportation than you do. Why don't you read before you talk?

[9:15]

Mr. Pope: You're an expert in everything.

Mr. Philip: Talk to the member sitting beside you.

Mr. Wildman: —that we have the kinds of roads that are necessary; that we don't lose our railroads because of an ill-advised federal policy which says that whatever railway transportation doesn't pay will be eliminated, as is the case with the Budd car service between Sudbury and the Sault. The passenger service there has been discontinued as a result of federal policy. During the campaign, the Premier said that if this happened, if the federal government didn't live up to its responsibility as far as transportation is concerned, the present government would step in through Ontario Northland and its rail, bus and air services. Ontario Northland, I understand, is to be given to this new ministry. As of July 1, this new ministry will be involved in co-ordinating those transportation services and providing service to the north.

I would certainly hope that this ministry, if it is really sincere in wanting to respond to the needs of the north, will look immediately to the Budd car service between Sudbury and the Sault to ensure that that service will be continued. But I wonder, where in the bill does it say that the minister will have the power to do anything about it? I've searched the bill. This ministry really should be the one handling it, as far as I can see in the bill, but it doesn't say what it's going to do or how it's going to do it.

In relation to economic development in general, we of course have other agencies of this government. Under the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, we have the Northern Ontario Development Corporation as one agency that is responsible for economic development in the north. I wonder what is going to be the relationship between this ministry and NODC. How is NODC going to operate in relation to the co-ordinating function of this ministry? I hope the minister will be able to make that clear to us.

NODC has a very sorry record on the north shore of Lake Huron in my riding. Over the last five to six years, NODC has invested about \$1 million of taxpayers' money in four manufacturing firms—that's all it has done as far as secondary industry is concerned—and every one of those firms has gone bankrupt since they've received those funds. This has resulted in tremendous losses to the Treasury. The assets of some of those firms have been sold off by the receivers; in one case there was a loan of about \$500,000 and the result of the sale was a loss of about \$200,000 to the Treasury.

What is this ministry going to do about that kind of situation? Does it have the power or the direction to do anything about it as it is put forward in the bill? I really don't know. It doesn't seem to say in the bill what it's going to do. Section 7 says the minister can delegate the power to the deputy minister or any other officer of the ministry under "such limitations, restrictions, conditions and requirements as the minister may set out in his delegation." Then in section 8 it talks in very general terms about policies, priorities, co-ordination and so on, but it doesn't say exactly what the ministry is intending to do.

I find it difficult to determine how I can disagree with this bill. I support the bill. I find it difficult to disagree with it when it's so vague and general. If it says we're going to have a ministry that is going to do something about the problems of the north, well, I can't be against it. I can be somewhat sceptical when I take into account the record of the government over the last 35 years, but I can't

be against it. I can be hopeful that it will do something.

One thing though that does make me a little sceptical about the performance of this ministry is the performance of the minister and his officials in dealing with some problems since he was appointed to this job. I've raised a number of problems with the minister since he was appointed and asked him to look into them and to do specific things that would help. I've had mixed results. I would just like to allude to a couple of those, Mr. Speaker, by way of example.

As everyone knows, one of the major problems we have in northern Ontario is the fact that unorganized communities do not have the services that other communities take for granted. One of those major services is fire protection. There's a little community in my riding on the CN line about 40 miles east of Hornepayne named Oba. About 90 people live in Oba. When you consider that, you can see that five fires over the last year and a half is a pretty large number, especially when some of them destroyed homes completely. The last one destroyed the general store which was the major meeting and shopping place for everyone in town. You can certainly see the vulnerability of the community.

I raised this matter of fire protection in Oba with this minister when he was the Minister of Natural Resources. I said: "Why not give the people of Oba, who are organizing a volunteer fire brigade, some used MNR equipment, like a pumper and some hose so that they can provide themselves with some fire protection?" The minister was very sympathetic to the problem but indicated the ministry could not give that kind of equipment because it uses it until it's worn out and it wouldn't function at the time that they would need it. At which point I suggested they might give them some new equipment. That wasn't acceptable either.

Anyway, during the whole period of this discussion, the people of Oba themselves got tired of waiting for the government and they collected money from everybody in town. They got together and they bought a second-hand pumper. Then they started to run into problems from the other ministries of this government. First thing, the Minister of Revenue said they had to pay sales tax on this pumper. I must admit, since the Minister of Education is here, I got some sympathy from the Ministry of Education on the problem. They were willing to have the pumper designated as educational equipment so it would be exempt from sales tax, but not the Ministry of Revenue. They just wouldn't go for that at all.

Finally, after the publicity over this whole schemozzle and almost every ministry except the Ministry of Education had failed to respond to the needs of this northern community, all the publicity generated by that led the government to agree to provide some equipment. That was a precursor of the announcement of the Isolated Communities Assistance Fund by the Treasurer in December in which he announced that \$750,000 would try and provide services in unorganized communities that this government had failed to provide. Now, of course, that fund is to be administered by this new ministry.

I'm still very interested in fire protection in a number of other communities in my riding, so immediately after the appointment of the minister I contacted the ministry and the Isolated Communities Assistance Fund branch and asked about a number of communities that were interested in getting fire protection in my riding. While the fund was being administered by the Minister of Natural Resources, this government did show some desire to respond in that it did agree to provide—it hasn't provided them yet—funds for fire protection for Montreal River and Searchmont.

But then, after this minister was appointed—and this is what makes me sceptical about how he might act after this bill is passed and he has the ministry officially and it is going to administer the Isolated Assistance Fund—a number of other communities in the same area applied and they were denied. I wrote the minister about it. One specific area I was talking about was Aweres township, which is just north of Sault Ste. Marie. The Sault Star interviewed the minister, I understand, and he was quoted in a front-page story in the Sault Star of March 12 in which he said in part that he was anxious to help and that special consideration could be given to Aweres. The fact that Aweres didn't fit quite into, I think, the very stringent guidelines of the program didn't matter because he said again, "The whole program is a flexible one. I certainly won't be locked into that set of criteria." He said he would look at a valid proposal by the Aweres residents if they made one.

I found that very encouraging and that seemed to me to be an indication that this ministry was going to do something about the problems of unorganized communities. I went out to Aweres and, in concert with a number of other people, helped to organize a steering committee to organize a fire department and look into the costs of equipment that would be necessary and so on.

It is interesting that even though this ministry has been operating and is supposed to be dealing with the Isolated Communities Assistance Fund, you still have to go through Natural Resources. Mr. Hendry in the Thunder Bay office handles the fire protection program.

Mr. Stokes: Not any more.

Mr. Wildman: Not any more? That has just changed then. I have nothing against Mr. Hendry. I think he worked very hard at the job.

Anyway we organized this and we made an application. Then in the first week of May the steering committee secretary received a letter from Mr. Hendry denying the application, even though the minister had said they would look at it favourably or at least indicated they would. They denied the application because of the size of the population and location of the township which had already been pointed out to the minister before they applied in the first place. I wonder how much this indicates this ministry is going to respond to the needs of unorganized communities. It was very disappointing.

I contacted the Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs after this denial, and asked him to review the application and he said he would. Then in the last week of May the committee received another letter from Mr. Hendry confirming the denial after the review. I have since again contacted Mr. Campbell, the deputy minister. He has promised again to review the application. The problem in that case is that under that program they have to be less than 10 miles from a major centre that has fire protection.

Mr. Reid: More than.

Mr. Wildman: More than, right. This is ridiculous because even if they are eight miles or nine miles from a community, they can't get adequate protection, especially when that municipality doesn't want to give them protection because it has enough to do in its own municipality. Anyway that's why they refused.

Later on, another community in the same area, Batchawana, appears to be going to be refused in its application as well because of a study which has been carried by the Ministry of Housing on organization in the area, ignoring the fact that Searchmont is in the same area and received assistance under the program.

I don't want to go on on that particularly. I just hope this is not an indication of how this ministry is going to operate. Apparently, the ministry refused these applications because of a study being done by the Ministry

of Housing and because TEIGA indicated there might be organization in the area at some time in the future, perhaps in the near future.

The fact of the matter remains that there isn't fire protection there now and it is needed now. The people there want to work on it, want to develop it and are willing to put in their own efforts and their own financial contributions. They are collecting financial contributions now. The committees are doing that. They have gone to the whole problem of getting estimates and talking to the Fire Marshal, talking to the fire department in Sault Ste. Marie and talking to the fire department in Echo Bay and so on to find out what is needed and what they should be doing.

What happens? They appear to be refused by the ministry. I hope that's not an indication of how effective this ministry is going to be, because we need services in unorganized communities in northern Ontario. We don't need just fire protection.

Mr. Reid: We need them in organized communities too.

[9:30]

Mr. Wildman: Exactly. We need fire protection, we need water and sewers.

It's interesting. When that program was announced—a total of \$750,000 for the Isolated Communities Assistance Fund—it was said that it might help to produce water and sewer systems. Well, \$750,000 for all the unorganized communities in northern Ontario. You know, that wouldn't even pay for 100 feet of pipe, if you are going to look at a water and sewer project, so that money is inadequate.

This ministry, if it is going to be effective, has to have funds. It has to have planning staff. It has to have the ability to bring about the services and the development we need.

Unorganized communities also need recreation facilities. We have been able to get some funds from the Ministry of Education and some funds through Wintario for various kinds of things, if there are groups available to do something in unorganized communities. But generally, this government for years has failed the unorganized communities. It hasn't provided the services there that are necessary. And the record since that time of the ministry is not encouraging.

I really hope the specific problems I have alluded to will be rectified by this ministry. That's why I am supporting the bill in principle. But I certainly agree with the member for Sudbury East when he said that amendments have to be made to the bill to provide

the ministry with the funds and the power to actually do something.

I don't want to have to keep writing letters, riding the merry-go-round, as I have had to with the fire protection problem in Sault North. I want to have something done there. I would like to see those people who have done the work themselves—the local people who want to do something, want to produce fire protection for their community—get it.

I know the decision isn't final, because I have asked for reviews upon reviews, and hopefully it's still being reviewed. I hope that decision will be acceptable.

I hope this ministry will have the funds and the planning staff, in co-ordination with the organized communities of the north shore, to determine what kinds of industries are viable in these areas, to produce the secondary industry we need, to provide the jobs that we need in northern Ontario, so that we don't continue to have this emigration of young people from the north and this high cost of goods and products in northern Ontario. I hope this ministry can do something about the transportation problems we face throughout northern Ontario. But in order to do that, we have to strengthen it.

I will support this bill in principle, Mr. Speaker, but I certainly agree that we need to amend it and make it more powerful.

Mr. Foulds: It has been an interesting debate—

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Will you go for 10 minutes?

Mr. Foulds: The minister wants me to filibuster for 10 minutes so he can come back and speak? That's the member for Sault Ste. Marie who is now leaving. I don't know if he will make it back, but it's a minor diversion in these parliamentary proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, it has in fact been an interesting debate. I know I read all the speeches that I haven't heard. Although some of the members of the House from southern Ontario may think the northern members from all parties have been somewhat repetitious, I think it is an indication of the depth of feeling, the depth of commitment we all have to our part of the province, to that part of the province that has supplied so much wealth, so much manpower, not only for this province but for the world.

I rise to support the principle of the bill on second reading, the principle being, presumably, to establish a ministry that will provide, deliver and create services for northern Ontario, some of which have not yet occurred there. But—and I want to say this as unprovocatively as possible—the bill is an admission of failure on the part of the Con-

servative government to service that area of the province properly for 34 years. Even more importantly, it is an admission of failure on the part of all governments in the history of this province since Confederation to deal with the needs of that part of the province—that part of the province that has, if I may say so, been exploited for the benefit of the rest of the province.

But I think that the attitude we have is that we will give this government a last chance for death-bed repentance before its final death, to see if it can do something with the north. We'll give this government a chance to prove it means more than the mere statements that have issued from the government for, lo, these many years.

There are two encouraging signs. One of them is the ability that the ministry may have and that it has demonstrated to take quick and effective action in times of crisis. I refer specifically to the quick action during the election campaign in the Cobalt disaster. There may have been mixed motives there, but nevertheless it was done, and it was done quickly and the commitment appeared to be there.

There also was the action that was finally taken, after a lot of pressure from the former member for Fort William, to come to grips with the crisis drought situation in Thunder Bay and area and in northwestern Ontario. So much so that I'm even slightly convinced that the rains that have fallen in northern Ontario since election day, June 9, have partly been as a result of the cloud seeding done by the deputy minister personally. I think he's known within the backrooms of the ministry as The Rainmaker, the Keith Davey of the new ministry, and that the water table will slowly rise.

Mr. Stokes: Puts out fires created by others.

Mr. Foulds: The second hopeful sign was, frankly, the commitment that I detect being demonstrated by a number of civil servants to the new ministry, not only those who have been fairly highly visible and appointed, but a number of people who have worked in the north in other ministries who are deciding it's worth the gamble to take on a job with the new ministry to see if the thing will work.

If the ministry is to provide and deliver and create services that haven't already been in existence or have been delivered relatively imperfectly over the last 110 years, it does indeed have a very tall job. I would like, as quickly as I can, to touch upon four major areas. There have been a number of speeches made about the difficulties in health and education and a whole range of areas that I

won't go into. But I do want to talk about the environment, the economic, social and cultural development of the north, the cost of goods and services, and transportation. I hope I can weave these into a coherent pattern that will make some sense.

In the debate there has been some mention made of the Treasurer's (Mr. McKeough) move about the \$10 licence fee to counteract the excessive cost of gasoline in the north. While that move is welcome and while it doesn't come into effect until next February, and while it doesn't affect the half-ton trucks which many northerners use—

Mr. Wildman: Forty-five per cent.

Mr. Foulds: Forty-five per cent, my colleague points out to me—I suppose the move was accepted.

But it doesn't come to grips with what I consider to be an even more fundamental problem with regard to the oil and gasoline industry in northern Ontario, and that is the outrageous cost of home heating fuel. It does nothing to redress the imbalance there. And that is particularly important in the north because the climatic conditions force us to use heating for a much longer period of time and we pay unduly excessive taxes because we must pay it on larger amounts at a larger base price.

This government does have the responsibility and the authority to regulate retail prices. I would hope one of the new tasks of this new ministry, one of the first tasks, would be to take a look at the retail prices throughout northwestern Ontario, to review the detrimental impact that has on the individual consumer, but also on the economy as a whole. I consider that to be one of the major reasons that there has been the lack of economic development in the north that has occurred so far.

Transportation costs, and transportation generally: I want to deal just with freight rates, because my colleague from Algoma has dealt, symbolically, through the situation between Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, symbolically with the difficulties in passenger service throughout the north.

It is ironic, as my colleague from Lake Nipigon pointed out many years ago, that a load of timber can be shipped from Longlac in his riding to Ottawa for the same price, if not slightly cheaper, than from Longlac to Thunder Bay within the region. We all know the impact that excessive freight rates have had, on northwestern Ontario in particular, in terms of the economy.

I would like to make one simple, positive suggestion to the minister and to the ministry, and to his colleague, the Minister of

Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow). It seems to me it would make a lot of sense if this minister, along with his colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications, could in fact make representations to the federal government that northwestern Ontario in particular be included in the prairie freight-rate structure region, because we all know it costs less to send a car from Toronto to Winnipeg than it does from Toronto to Thunder Bay. If we could have, through this ministry, closer liaison with the three prairie provinces that experience the same difficulties and the same problems—not exactly the same problems, but similar problems in terms of freight rates and in terms of transportation—it seems to me that would be a very useful initiative that the ministry could take.

I'd like to talk for a moment, and I've talked of this before and I would hope that the minister and his officials would look at the remarks that I made on the amendments to The Environmental Assessment Act, the Hartt bill, because I did deal with this topic to some extent then and I won't repeat what I said then. But I think one of the keys to development throughout the north, and in the northwest in particular, is that we need to diversify the industry in the one-industry towns and throughout the region so that the region can in fact be more homogeneous.

As I said at that point, we in Thunder Bay have no desire for Thunder Bay to become the hog town of northwestern Ontario; it is too expensive in social terms and it is too destructive of the hinterland, of the region itself. If you have a strong region and a strong diversified economy in the one-industry towns, that makes the city itself stronger because it doesn't suffer the impact when one of those industries in the one-industry towns goes belly up.

[9:45]

I would therefore strongly recommend to the minister consideration of acceptance of the amendment put forward by my colleague from Sudbury East that would establish the northern Ontario tomorrow fund. Because we all know, for example, that the minute a mine opens, no matter how rich the body, no matter how long we project that it will last, it is in fact the first day in the death of the community built to support that mine.

If we invest in the costs of the services, schools and sewers and lighting, for the community, it just makes sense to start investing in developing an industry to take up the slack of employment as the mine depletes—as the resource exhausts itself we must therefore diversify.

of Northern Ont.

I want to list a number of ideas for the kinds of industries associated with the woods industry that we should be positively looking at: the manufacture of skis, toboggans, thread spools, the cores that we wrap the paper on in the mills. And we need to use more effectively than we have in the past the species of wood that still are available.

Why don't we go into book publishing? It makes eminent good sense in a region like the north because we could carry the industry right through from the chopping of the trees to the printing of the books. I see no reason with modern technology why a viable book publishing industry could not be set up on a regional basis in northwestern Ontario.

I think the recent Lovekin-Elwert-Richard report, of which the minister has a copy, points out the difficulties that face the region. If we don't have some kind of additional input in the development of industry there we will face stagnation by the 1990s—real stagnation.

A suggestion in that report was the development of the high technology industries. I think that that should be looked upon positively because the components are small, or they could be small, and the transportation factor may not be a prohibitive factor in developing the industries. After all, if Volvo can set up an assembly plant in Nova Scotia, surely we can set up things like the development of electronic plants, the development of the camera industry, the development of things like vacuum cleaners and the manufacture of jewellery.

I want to say one positive thing that the government has done with regard to the mining industry in northern Ontario, particularly in my region of Thunder Bay. That was the very simple designation—largely under pressure from my colleague from Lake Nipigon, and a lot of other pressure—the very simple step of designating amethyst, the very pretty and very beautiful stone, as the gem stone for Ontario. That itself has developed a small cottage industry of jewellery manufacture all around northwestern Ontario and in the Thunder Bay area in particular. And if you can do that, with amethyst, with that simple step with some imagination, it seems to me you should be able to do that with other minerals and with the development of a jewellery industry throughout the northwest.

I suppose I could go on—manufacture of leather goods.

Mr. Martel: Mining equipment.

Mr. Foulds: The development of mining equipment in the north-central part of the province. It just makes a lot of common sense because you've got the resource there

that needs the equipment that you can try it out on. You can do the research and development right there on the spot.

Mr. Stokes: It would be a switch from moving tree-harvester manufacturing to the south.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, it would be a switch from moving the tree-harvester operation from Thunder Bay to southern Ontario.

Well, the examples proliferate and I won't go on. But if it was considered at one time that it might be feasible to establish a shoe factory on the English-Wabigoon or the Whitedog-Grassy reserves—the idea was at least kicked around—surely it makes some sense to look at that too in other areas of northwestern Ontario where in fact it might be more viable than it was in that particular case.

I think it is important, when we talk about development in the north, for it to be understood that at least we on this side of the House are talking about carefully planned, sane development. We're not talking about growth for growth's sake or development for development's sake. The reason we want growth and development at a reasonable pace is that we want the development of jobs and the development of a sound economy. We don't want a continuation of the boom-and-bust cycle that we've experienced for so long. We want an economy that will be there for a considerable period of time, several hundred years.

One of the things we have complained about in this party is that the resource exploitation of the north continues apace. Almost 76 per cent of the people in northwestern Ontario, I believe, work directly or indirectly in the forest industry; nevertheless, six out of every 10 jobs related to the forest industry are in southern Ontario and not in northern Ontario, where the major part of the resource comes from. That's one of the things that I think we can no longer tolerate. We must expect this ministry to have the guts and the clout to say to the rest of the government, "You've got to decentralize from the Golden Horseshoe," and the government must have the guts to decentralize from the choked regions around Metropolitan Toronto.

There is one thing that I think we must keep in mind in this whole debate too; it's one of the things that I think was misunderstood about some of the input that was put into the Design for Development plans of the late 1960s. I remember being at one of the most stimulating conferences on Design for Development held at Quetico Centre, when it was in its formative stages. Everyone there said we want to maintain the kind of life

that we have now. But I think that somehow was distorted, as it went through the plan and into its final stage, to say that we were satisfied with the status quo. I think that led to an undue emphasis on the development of tourism.

I think tourism is an important industry if it's kept in perspective. But if it becomes the dominant or the major employer in a town or region, it can have an undesirable economic effect because it is the first industry that is subject to tight world markets.

Aside from some rather tragic individual and glaring exceptions, of which we all are aware, the environment in the north is not bad. Most of the people that I talk to in the north, while they want the controlled, planned and sane development, also do not want to sacrifice those kinds of things in the north that we do enjoy and love.

By the way, I noticed that the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) made a very interesting statement. I thoroughly approved of it because it was one of the best statements from a Conservative I've heard. He said that what this government has to do is control the industrial growth in the north. I haven't heard a Tory say, so succinctly and so blatantly, that we should control the industrial growth of the north.

Mr. Wildman: They believe in free enterprise, don't they?

Mr. Pope: You have not been listening.

Mr. Foulds: If we had said that, all the Tories would have been jumping up and down, shouting that we were rabid radicals of some kind.

Mr. Pope: You haven't been listening.

An hon. member: The Minister of Housing (Mr. Rhodes) would go bananas.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We know what you really mean.

Mr. Mackenzie: He really doesn't mean it, eh?

An hon. member: He said it half an hour ago.

Mr. Wildman: He has not learned to be a realist.

An hon. member: Take him outside and talk to him, John.

An hon. member: Just take Norton out.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Are you a real NDPer, Bud?

Mr. Foulds: Yes, Norton sold out fast. One last comment. I think it is important that this ministry recognize that what happens in the north happens to all of the people of the north—natives, immigrants, white people who

have been there for centuries. The development of the cultural, social and economic fabric must take place without any confrontation and with the full confidence of that very great range and mix of people. If we blow that, we can in fact be sitting on a powder-keg. This ministry has very heavy responsibilities to make sure it gets the confidence of that whole range of peoples.

Mr. Speaker, when I started to speak in this debate, I said I rose to support the principle—

Hon. B. Stephenson: To speak briefly.

Mr. Foulds: No, I didn't say I was going to speak briefly. I was one of the few people who didn't say I was going to speak briefly. I knew I wanted to speak with some feeling and at some length.

Mr. Reid: He has never spoken briefly in his life.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: If only it had been with some clarity, we would have been all set.

Mr. Foulds: I can't help it if you've got cotton wool in your ears and you left. I really can't help that.

Mr. Reid: He went to get the cotton to put in.

Mr. Foulds: It's all right. I'm going to walk out on you when you start to speak.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You sound as if you feel hurt.

Mr. Martel: John, are you going to support this?

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, when I rose, I rose to say I supported the principle of the bill at this time on second reading—

Mr. Havrot: You smell like a rose.

Mr. Foulds:—but I want to tell you that I support even more enthusiastically the very constructive, positive amendments that have been drafted and submitted by my colleague from Sudbury East.

Mr. Havrot: That is a disaster.

Mr. Foulds: Those positive, constructive amendments will give this ministry the strength and the authority to do the job that needs to be done. This ministry does need to be a powerful ministry and it must be a ministry that has some clout. It is a ministry that must have the contact with the democratically elected community councils of the unorganized townships that TEIGA now has with the municipalities through the PMLC throughout the province. This ministry must have that contact with democratically elected councils so that they are representative of those individual small communities.

It must be a functioning ministry and that is why I support the bill. But I will support those amendments even more enthusiastically, because those amendments are the only way we can strengthen this ministry and give it the clout that is necessary to knock the heads together in the rest of this government to bring justice to northern Ontario.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to speak to this bill? If not, the hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. S. Smith: Get the feathers ready for your hat, Leo.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: May I say in winding up this particular debate after some five or six hours of input from the members across northern Ontario—

Mr. Reid: Some more constructive than others.

Hon. Mr. Bernier:—I want to express my appreciation to each of those members for the contribution that he or she has made. As they fully recognized, this was the whole exercise of this particular bill, that if this new ministry was really going to be the eyes and the ears and the voice, as my colleague from Fort Williams pointed out, then we had to have the input from day one, and the input was very graciously received. I can assure the members on both sides of the House that the next several weeks will be spent going over those remarks very carefully, reviewing the constructive criticism that was advanced.

Mr. Reid: That will be a first.

Mr. Nixon: They should be separately published and bound.

Mr. S. Smith: Especially the minister.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In fact, I may even send a personal invitation to the leader of the official opposition to come up to northern Ontario and join me in an extensive tour.

Mr. Eakins: Stay overnight at Minaki Lodge?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, we could even go to Minaki Lodge too, sir.

[10:00]

Mr. S. Smith: I have been to your riding.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: If Stuart can't make it he will phone.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I guarantee the reception there would be a little more hospitable than the reception the leader of the third party received at that particular time.

Mr. Philip: It was much more hospitable than for the other two.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: That's unfair.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment briefly on some of the remarks that were made. I think many of the members of the opposition commented on the length of time that it's taken this government to establish this new and exciting ministry that will do the things for northern Ontario that we are all hoping for.

Mr. S. Smith: Oh, no.

Mr. Reid: He is putting his staff to sleep.

Mr. Eakins: What an exciting minister.

Mr. S. Smith: At least he will do less harm than he did in Natural Resources.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I sensed a real sincerity by the northern members on both sides of the House to do the things we've all been wanting to do for some considerable time and, certainly, the co-ordinating and administrative roles of this ministry will enact many of the things that they have pointed out.

They speak of the 34 years that this party has managed the affairs of this province.

Mr. Roy: Mismanaged.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would point out to the hon. members that there comes a time for everything to happen.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: We were elected. The people chose.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: If you look at the last five, six or seven years and look at the northern programs that have been developed by the Davis administration—and I say that with a great deal of sincerity—

Mr. Roy: Hang in, John.

Mr. Reid: Not for the Kenora riding.

Hon. Mr. Bernier:—the Northern Ontario Development Corporation, the Northern Ontario Transportation Commission, the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission which takes in northern Ontario, the Isolated Communities Assistance Fund—all programs designed to assist those people north of the French River.

Mr. Nixon: The Spadina Expressway.

Mr. Reid: Oh, you are playing around on the fringes most of the time.

Mr. S. Smith: And sometimes south of the French River.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It's obvious, if you put them together—the regional priorities budget and the other responsible areas of setting highway construction priorities—

Mr. Reid: You get the money from the federal government.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Put them all together and it's obvious you have a ministry that can produce something for the benefit of all

people living in northern Ontario. Add those administration responsibilities to some co-ordinating responsibilities that will look after the priorities, the programs of all other ministries; put the input of all that together and it makes good sense in this period in our history that we move on with the establishment of this particular ministry.

Mr. S. Smith: It's a bargain to get you out of Natural Resources.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I just want to touch briefly on some of the remarks made by the members opposite. I want to compliment the member for Rainy River. I think he made a number of very good points. One very central one, of course, which we all share and which he recognized, is an improvement in the cost of transportation in northern Ontario. Certainly, this is a matter which is absolutely essential if we are to encourage development, not only of processing and secondary manufacturing but to keep all our basic industries competitive. I say that with a great deal of interest because, if we're not competitive we're not, of course, in the market at all. One of the outlying factors contributing to that non-competitive position—

Mr. S. Smith: What has stopped you for 34 years?

Hon. Mr. Bernier:—is that we have in some of our industries the high cost of transportation.

An hon. member made some comment about the role and the functions of the particular ministry. I would ask him to look at section 8 of the bill. It clearly outlines there, in very broad general terms, a number of points as to what the responsibilities are and the areas of jurisdiction that we'll have.

I know many of the members commented in a political way about the announcement of this particular ministry coming at a time when it did. Certainly, after 34 years of managing the affairs of this province—and I know that the members opposite will agree—things really can't be that bad in northern Ontario, when on June 9, 1977—

Mr. Mackenzie: Admit it, you pulled another one.

Hon. Mr. Bernier:—a majority of the northern members were returned to the government side of the House.

Mr. Wildman: Plurality.

Mr. Bernier: In fact, there were two or three who came very close in the third party, so that we could have added those to make about nine.

Mr. Foulds: You didn't get a majority. You didn't get eight out of 15.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, we have seven out of 15.

An hon. member: We will next time, relax.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We have, we have seven.

Mr. Reid: That is why we have minority government.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We have more than you people have.

Mr. Foulds: You'd better learn to count.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: And we pretty nearly had two more.

Mr. Speaker: Could we get on with the bill? Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Really, if things were that bad—and I have a great respect for the electorate, the people out there—the people out there know what's going on and they recognize the direction this government was taking and the efforts we were making to accomplish things and do things; and you know what happened, you know what happened on June 9. So I just can't accept the argument—

Mr. Roy: Yes, we know what happened.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Don't you speak. You lost two.

An hon. member: You listen.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You lost two.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could we get on with the business of the House?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You lost a seat, you didn't win. You didn't win in the last election.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You lost a seat. Do you remember that? You fail to remember that.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You think you won.

Mr. Roy: If you had any honour at all, you would read our remarks and resign.

Mr. Speaker: We are wasting valuable time. Will the hon. minister continue with his response and please keep to the bill? Thank you.

Mr. Havrot: Okay powder puff, keep quiet.

Mr. Nixon: We know we didn't win, but you lost.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, those are the facts; those are the facts, really.

Mr. Roy: Do you have some evidence?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The evidence is in this House, right here on this side of the House. You see the evidence there. The people of the province have spoken.

Mr. Roy: Where is your majority? You guys bombed and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They have spoken.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They have asked this party to carry on and we will carry on.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Three percentage points and we sneaked through.

Mr. Speaker: Could we continue with the bill please? Thank you. Order.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Big winners.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: As I said, Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House have a great respect for the electorate of the province of Ontario. We have accepted our responsibilities, and certainly one of those responsibilities is to establish this new ministry and get on with the job of responding to the requests of those who live in northern Ontario.

Getting back to the ministry itself, one of the questions that was raised was the location of the offices. The regional offices are being established in Kenora and in Sault Ste. Marie, with district offices in Thunder Bay, in Sudbury and in Cochrane. The northern members know full well, if they take that map of northern Ontario and look at it and study it for a minute, they will see—

Mr. S. Smith: And lean a little to the left; it depends how you fold the map.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They will see that the whole area of northern Ontario has been carefully covered by the administrative setup and by the placing of those offices in those strategic centres.

As one of the members said, the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, if we had been doing it for political purposes do you think we would go to the ridings we were sure of?

An hon. member: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The riding of Kenora and the riding of my hon. colleague from Sault Ste. Marie?

Mr. Reid: The truth is you weren't sure of them.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, we would have gone to Rainy River.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Is that why you didn't come, Stuart?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We would have gone to Port Arthur, where 300 votes separated the candidates. That's where we would have gone if we had done it for political purposes. We went to the extremities of the northeastern and northwestern regions.

Mr. Reid: Explain that one.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We went to the extremities to pull that part of northern Ontario closer to the centre and to Queen's Park. The whole thrust of this new ministry is to bring

Queen's Park closer to northern Ontario, so we make no apologies.

Mr. Nixon: The head office is going to be here in Toronto anyway.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In fact I said at the FNOM conference in Parry Sound—which the Leader of the Opposition attended, I think a day after I was there—I said to those municipal leaders at that time that if there is a weakness in our delivery system, if it clearly points out there is a gap in our delivery system, we are prepared to look at it. We are not locked into these particular locations.

We want to improve, and certainly as you establish a new ministry there is going to be room for improvement. We accept that; it is on that basis that I accept the constructive views of members on both sides of the House.

I think the other point that the member for Rainy River made was the jobs that are required—the lack of opportunity in northern Ontario. In fact, he touched on communications in the remote areas. I just want to point out to him that this government has done a tremendous amount with regard to the improvement of communications in northern Ontario—ETV, to which the member referred, is now in Sudbury and in Thunder Bay and will be extended into other parts of northern Ontario.

In fact, during the election campaign I had the pleasure of making a very extended visit through my riding, going up to Sandy Lake, which is an area that I visit on a very regular basis.

Mr. Reid: Didn't do you much good.

Mr. Stokes: You lost that, as I recall.

Mr. Reid: Ninety per cent against.

Hon. Mr. Bernier:—and it was a pleasure to have Chief Tom Fiddler in the gallery today as my guest, along with all the chiefs from northern Ontario. And it was a pleasure to walk into Tom Fiddler's home—

Mr. Reid: You did better when you never went near them.

Mr. Speaker: All the other hon. members had a chance to speak. Will the minister be allowed to complete his remarks?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He called me into his home, 'way up in Sandy Lake, and, as I walked in he reached to the wall and he switched on the light and he said, "Leo, look at that. Hydro right there."

Then he walked over to the telephone, he picked up the telephone, he dialled two numbers. He called his son Jonas, he said, "Leo is over here. Come on over, I want you to meet with him."

Then he walked over to the corner—listen to this, Mr. Speaker—he walked over to the corner of the main living room and he turned the switch on his television—a colour television at Sandy Lake.

An hon. member: But no picture.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: All those services had arrived within the last 10 days.

Mr. Reid: That's good timing.

Mr. Breithaupt: Just before the election. Ten days.

Mr. Roy: What date was that?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I point this out to you, because I don't think the members realize—maybe the member for Lake Nipigon does, because his area is covered by that particular program.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There is a \$13-million program shared equally by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and Bell Telephone that is bringing instant communications. And if the Leader of the Opposition wishes to call the chief at Sandy Lake—I don't know if he realizes it, but he can dial him directly right from Toronto. I don't know if he realizes it. And Pikangikum the same way.

Mr. S. Smith: Did you predict an eclipse of the sun while you were up there as well?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: So I just point that out to the member.

Mr. S. Smith: You should have brought a lighter with you as well. An amazing firestick. He will have a flick of the Bic if this keeps up.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: This has really happened within the last few days, so that we have made a tremendous amount of progress in northern Ontario. Even the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) recognized the progress that has been going on in northern Ontario—a southerner who sits back here, 1,200 miles away from northern Ontario and is able to recognize the tremendous—

Mr. Wildman: You're really scraping the bottom of the barrel when you are using him as a source.

Hon. Mr. Bernier:—developments that are occurring in northern Ontario. Sure there's lots to be done. There is no question about that; I think we all realize that. Of course, this is the reason that this new ministry is being established.

We can talk about increased tourism. The hon. member mentioned Crown land camping as an area that should be looked at very carefully. He pointed out in great detail how the

pork-and-beaners were moving in and exploiting the resources of northern Ontario. Well, we tried the Crown land camping experiment, a three-year experiment, in north-west Ontario. That information now is being carefully tabulated within the Ministry of Natural Resources. I am hopeful of, and certainly I will be pressing for, some further program that can be extended right across the north that will make sure the resources are carefully controlled and in the best interests of all the people in northern Ontario.

I believe there was some mention that in the bill itself there was no reference to native peoples in northern Ontario. I just want to point out that the programs that we will be administering will be for all the people of northern Ontario. We have native peoples living in all parts of this province, so in no way do we want to segregate that particular group in our communities in this particular bill. But we will be looking after their needs equally as enthusiastically as we will look after the needs of all other communities in the north. I just make that point very clear.

Many of the members touched on the single-industry communities. I would just point out to the hon. members that in the last seven years since the Davis administration took over the responsibility of administering the affairs of this province, there hasn't been a new single-industry community established in this province under the new guidelines that we accepted in Design for Development.

[10:15]

Mr. S. Smith: There is not a new mine on the drawing board, for heaven's sake.

Hon. W. Newman: Maybe that's your fault.

Mr. Reid: You do not call Pickle Lake a community?

Mr. S. Smith: Oh sure, there is a grocery store as well as a mine.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Well, there's an established community there.

Hon. W. Newman: Have you ever been in northern Ontario?

Mr. S. Smith: I have been there about a dozen times.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Right. But I'm looking at Ignace, Mattabi Mines. In no way do we allow a new community to establish adjacent to the mine.

We established South Bay Mines, at Confederation Lake, a totally portable community. Everything is built on a temporary basis. It's all mobile homes. That is the kind of thrust that we've been concentrating on and this is one of the 75 recommendations, as

the member for Lake Nipigon will recognize, in Design for Development. And that is the thrust that we're going.

Mr. Wildman: That is your solution. Mobile home parks as a solution.

Mr. Nixon: Right. Fix it so they can move out.

Mr. Foulds: That sounds like a program of Tsar Nicholas II.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: And also we're responding to those one-industry communities that may experience a period where their ore body will be exhausted. I think of Atikokan as a typical example. The member for Rainy River is well aware and certainly very familiar with the problems of that particular community.

We've already responded to it, as he well knows, with the establishment of a district office of Natural Resources, with the implementation of the Quetico Park plan which will bring a new economic thrust to the Atikokan area. A new hospital was established in Atikokan; a new airport. And we assisted the community in bringing in the waferboard plant—the Pluswood Company—creating 125 jobs. And now Ontario Hydro is establishing a steam generating plant in Atikokan. That's the kind of thrust we will accelerate with this particular ministry in place.

Mr. Reid: Going to use this in the next campaign.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I say this to reassure the members from northern Ontario that we will not have a repetition of the problems of the past.

Mr. Nixon: How did they do things without a Ministry of Northern Affairs?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: But the thrust is there and certainly I want to recognize the support in principle that both parties have given to this particular bill.

I just want to deal briefly with the member for Sudbury East because after all he is the official critic of this particular ministry in the third party. He quoted in detail from an editorial written by Michael Atkins, who writes in the Northern Life in the Sudbury area. He went into great detail to outline how Michael Atkins was quite sour on the new ministry. But what he failed to do was to wait a few days and to see the editorial that Mr. Atkins wrote on May 11, after attending a meeting at the municipal advisory committee in northeastern Ontario. I think it's well worth putting into the record, because he makes a complete reversal. For the sake of time I won't put the entire editorial on the record, but I will just put one or two lines, just to get the thrust—

Mr. Martel: Go ahead. Give us the whole thing.

Hon. Mr. Bernier:—the thrust of his editorial to refute entirely what the member for Sudbury East has already put on the record.

He goes on to say: "In fact, I'm persuaded, if not entirely convinced, there might be hope for the Ministry of Northern Affairs." There, you see?

Mr. Germa: There might be hope.

Mr. Foulds: That's called a rave review for you.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That's completely contrary to what the member for Sudbury East put on the record. So already there has been a change of heart in the Sudbury area to which the member made reference.

Mr. Wildman: That was only after he heard about the amendments. Then he thought there was hope.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister only has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would just remind the member for Sudbury East that before the establishment of this new Ministry of Northern Affairs, while it's certainly not patterned after those in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, we did look at their operations. In fact, we went as far as the province of Alberta to look at what they were doing.

In the province of Alberta they don't have a Ministry of Northern Affairs, but they have a commission set up. When I visited them this spring they indicated to me at that particular time that the commission had worked itself out and that they were seriously considering the establishment of a Ministry of Northern Affairs in Alberta. I explained to them the thrust that we were going in and they were extremely interested. In fact we have already directed to them a copy of our particular bill along with other information that I've given the hon. members.

So there is that kind of interest out in western Canada. The member knows full well that the northern affairs branch in Saskatchewan is a total failure. The one in Manitoba is much better; it has been very productive. We took some ideas from the province of Manitoba; I won't deny that. We have added to it and we have built on the strength of what we saw in Manitoba.

Mr. Martel: You've left lots out too.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We know we have the basis of a ministry that can produce and can do the things to which many hon. members referred. Many hon. members also dealt with specific issues within their particular ridings relating to road construction.

I think the unorganized communities attracted a tremendous amount of attention because they are a concern; they are a concern not only of myself but of all of us in the government party from the Premier and the Treasurer to all members of this government—and that is why we have established the isolated communities assistance fund.

Mr. Martel: Are you going to accept our amendments?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It was very plain, following the introduction of Bill 102, that the type of control suggested in that particular bill was not acceptable to the people in unorganized communities of northern Ontario. The isolated communities assistance fund, with which the members now are becoming more familiar, is the answer—at least on an interim basis until we get something better in place—and it is working very well.

Mr. Martel: Are you going to accept our amendments?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would point out to the hon. member for Sudbury East that if there is an unorganized community in his particular area which wants assistance for street lights—that is the example he used—then we can find a way to get funds into that particular area if there is a community nucleus to carry on the responsibility within that particular area.

We have already approved a minor grant at Rossport in the riding of Lake Nipigon; it's a \$2,000 grant to assist in paving a dock or wharf surface. I don't know if the hon. member has been made aware of that yet or not.

Mr. Martel: Will you accept the amendments then?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Those are the kinds of things we can do through the isolated communities assistance fund. It is there and in place to assist the unorganized communities in northern Ontario.

Mr. Martel: You will accept the amendments then.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the member for Fort William for his very strong support and enthusiasm for the establishment of this new ministry. His comments that this ministry will have the eyes, the ears and the voice of northern Ontario, and the responsibility of bringing those requests and the problems to the attention of the government were I think, excellent comments. I certainly look forward to his strong support in the weeks and months ahead.

Mr. Foulds: John Lane isn't going to be parliamentary assistant then?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The comments of the member for London Centre, of course, were

a little disappointing. They were of a very strong political nature. He talked all around the bill, but gave us no constructive criticism. I will certainly not commend him for that, because I don't think he has really visited northern Ontario to be able to speak with any authority.

Hon. W. Newman: Like his leader.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I also want to recognize the contribution made by the member for Nickel Belt and his comments with regard to the delivery of service, economic development and certain job creation that will occur in northern Ontario. Those are things that we have in mind; no question about it. I think it is fair to say that we are thinking along the same lines. I think it is also fair to say that the expectation of many people in northern Ontario for the Ministry of Northern Affairs is exceptionally high, and I don't want to stand here in my place and say to the member that I will be able to respond to all of those particular requests or answer all those particular problems.

I can tell the member that we have a dedicated staff. I am particularly pleased that the member for Port Arthur recognized very early in his comments the calibre of people that we are bringing into the new ministry, from the deputy minister down. He is a northerner from Chapleau and has a tremendous amount of experience in government and in northern Ontario.

The assistant deputy ministers, Bill Charlton and Herb Aiken, along with many others, are northern-oriented; they have that northern flavour, that northern feeling. That is the kind of feeling they are going to take away from this particular debate and carry on with, because they are the type of fellows that we northerners really want to administer the affairs of this new ministry. I want to take exception—if I can just go back a moment, Mr. Speaker—to the member for Sudbury East in his comments with regard to obtaining a document that was prepared for my particular ministry.

Hon. W. Newman: I'd just ignore him.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He said, "I just happened to get my hands on a document, and I won't tell you how, prepared for the ministry, in a brown bag. These brown envelopes, even in the new ministry, they manage to get out. There was a very interesting document prepared for the ministry by a planner, and it says"—and he goes on to create—

Mr. Martel: You said last night I said a cheap plan from your ministry.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, it's right here; I've got the copy of Hansard.

Mr. Martel: I didn't involve your ministry people.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: This is Hansard, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The hon. member for Sudbury East had his opportunity to speak.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I wish you would correct Hansard, because I'm quoting.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am quoting from Hansard, it's right there. It's on the record.

Mr. Martel: Read it.

Mr. Foulds: You need to take comprehension in reading.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: But, Mr. Speaker—
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. minister will continue. There's very few minutes left.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would just quote from page four of that particular document that was sent to my ministry on February 18 by the director of long range planning, department of planning and development for the regional municipality of Sudbury. It was a letter directed—it could have been directed by anybody, but this was a planner in Sudbury—where is the member for Sault Ste. Marie? I'm sorry he's lost, or rather he's left—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Bernier:—but the whole thrust of this document, about which the member left the inference that it had leaked out of my ministry—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It hadn't leaked at all. He likely got it directly from the planner himself, because all it deals with is the parochial attitude of the Sudbury area to the establishment of the regional office in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Martel: It doesn't deal with that at all.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I would ask the member for Sudbury East, Mr. Speaker, and I won't bore the House with—

Mr. Martel: It doesn't deal with that at all.

An hon. member: You've got the wrong document.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: If he supports it I will put the comments on the record then.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's point of order.

Mr. Martel: The point of order I have, Mr. Speaker is that the minister is rather erroneously misleading the House in that the document I have—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: Let me just—

Mr. Speaker: If the minister misquoted the member, he may correct it.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the document I have does not make reference to the location of the ministry offices in the Sudbury area whatsoever, or the Sault. It doesn't make any reference to it.

Mr. Hodgson: You are backtracking now, Elie.

Mr. Martel: That is just not factual.

Mr. Speaker: All right. May I point out to the hon. minister that it is almost 10:30. Will he be able to wind up his remarks in the next moment?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Oh yes.

Mr. Roy: Hopeful, eh?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Rather than belabour the House, I want to recognize very quickly the contribution made by the member for Lake Nipigon. Certainly his knowledge of northern Ontario is broad and in depth, and I just want to express my appreciation to him—for this particular contribution.

An hon. member: Great job.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He gave me a shopping list which we will carefully examine, of course, and review in some depth.

Mr. S. Smith: I am sure he wishes he were here to hear that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I also want to recognize the contribution made by the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, who had a tremendous part to play in the establishment of this new ministry, and to recognize his contribution; not only in this particular debate but in the weeks and months that have preceded the establishment of this particular ministry.

Mr. Breithaupt: We are going to read that back to him in a year.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In finalizing my comments I think the member for Cochrane South made a very valuable contribution in one of his maiden speeches in this House. Certainly it's obvious he has a grasp of the problems in northern Ontario. We will of course be exam-

ining his comments with a great deal of interest and sincerity, and hope that we can come to grips with the problems that he has recognized for us.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my particular remarks.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is for second reading of Bill 21. Shall this motion carry?

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells the House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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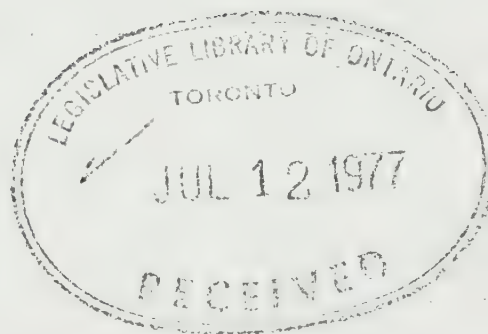
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No. 16

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard) Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament

Friday, July 8, 1977

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, Q.C.

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An alphabetical list of members of the Legislature of Ontario, together with lists of members of the executive council and parliamentary assistants, appears as an appendix at the back of this issue.

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Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1977

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY BILINGUAL COURT SERVICES

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: As I indicated on Wednesday of this week, Mr. Speaker, I want today to bring the members of the Legislature up to date on some recent developments in my ministry's program to expand French-language court services in Ontario. I also want to deal again briefly with some of the statements made recently about the impending trial of Mr. Gerard Filion.

The Ontario government, as I have attempted to indicate on a number of occasions in this Legislature, recognizes that the use of the French language is of fundamental importance to French-speaking citizens in the courts and is of course particularly relevant to the administration of justice. As I have also indicated on past occasions, it is our intention to continue to expand the use of the French language in our courts.

During the past year I believe that we have made great progress in developing French-language court services in Ontario and, as I say, I am confident we will continue to progress in this regard.

A year ago my ministry began a developmental project in the provincial court, criminal division, in Sudbury. This level of the court system was chosen to start French-language services because it is the level where the vast majority of the public comes into contact with the court system.

The provincial court, criminal division, deals with more than 99 per cent of the criminal and quasi-criminal cases disposed of in Ontario. This includes all matters under the Criminal Code of Canada except those where a preliminary inquiry is held. It also includes matters under provincial statutes such as The Highway Traffic Act and The Liquor Licence Act as well as matters under municipal bylaws. This means that the vast majority of cases involving criminal charges, driving violations and liquor legislation infractions, as well as local bylaws such as parking violations, may be dealt with in the French language in the designated areas.

The project in Sudbury enabled us to examine and refine the program with actual experience involving the public, the courts, the Crown attorneys and the police. As a result of the Sudbury experience and what we have learned from it, French-language services in the provincial court, criminal division, have now become permanent in the judicial district of Sudbury.

In addition, I have expanded this service to the judicial district of Carleton, in Ottawa, and to the united counties of Prescott and Russell, in L'Orignal. French-language courts became available in those two areas on June 6, 1977.

Furthermore, I can now advise this House that there will be a further expansion of this service to Kapuskasing, Hearst, Smooth Rock Falls, Cochrane and Hornpayne. This will take place on October 3, 1977.

When these services are in place, French-language court services will be available to about 66 per cent of Ontario citizens who speak French only, the citizens whose individual needs in this regard are of course the greatest. In addition, French-language court services will be available to about 35 per cent of our citizens who speak both French and English.

At the same time, it is important to remember that my ministry will of course continue to provide, as it is our responsibility, interpreter services in every level of the criminal court system for any person before the courts who requires it, in English, French or indeed in any other language.

In addition to French-language court service in areas of concentrations of Franco-Ontarians and our interpreter services throughout the province, my ministry is now providing 11 bilingual court forms to assist persons before the provincial court, criminal division. These are being used in all areas with French-language courts and in other areas with large populations of citizens who speak French. These areas are Algoma, Cochrane, Glengarry, Nipissing, Ottawa-Carleton, Prescott, Russell, Stormont, Sudbury and Timiskaming.

In the areas with French-language court services, my ministry has carried out an information program to make the public aware of this service. As a result of our experience

in Sudbury, we published and distributed more than 50,000 pamphlets in French explaining the service. These were distributed through the schools and made available by court and police officers throughout each area. We also placed newspaper advertisements in each area. We intend to continue this information program in all areas that will receive French-language court services in the future in order that the public may be aware of these services.

One of the rarely recognized difficulties in expanding French-language courts is the fact that the vast majority of lawyers in Ontario were educated in English. Even some lawyers who speak French do have some hesitation in taking trials in French, because their professional background and training was taken in English.

We hope to alleviate this situation over the long term by encouraging more instruction in the French language for law students. My colleague, the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mr. Parrott), is going to provide special funds to the University of Ottawa for common law courses in the French language. These new courses will begin this September.

In addition to all the developments I have mentioned, I recently established a task force within my ministry to explore further the legal and administrative issues involved in an even greater extension of the French language in various ways in our courts.

My ministry intends to continue the expansion of French-language services in the provincial court, criminal division, and in the provincial court, family division, as well. I expect to be able to announce further expansion in both courts later this year.

I would like to point out that in the courts for which this government has responsibility for making judicial appointments, the percentage of French-speaking judges has been increased steadily. In our provincial criminal courts we now have 12.4 per cent of the judges who are fully bilingual. In the family courts the figure is 10.2 per cent. This compares with four per cent in the Supreme Court of Ontario and 7.6 per cent in the county and district courts—the courts in which the federal government has responsibility for making judicial appointments.

Mr. Speaker, according to the 1971 census, about 10 per cent of Ontario's citizens speak French only, or both French and English.

My ministry's record in the past year of developing and expanding French language court services, I believe, is positive evidence of the Ontario government's continuing commitment to improve public services to Franco-Ontarians.

I'd like to deal specifically with the situation of Mr. Gerard Filion that has—

Mr. Renwick: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I have listened with some concern about the matters related to Mr. Gerard Filion being debated in public when they are matters before the criminal courts of the province. My question and my point of order is, whether it is appropriate in this House for matters affecting the trial of Mr. Gerard Filion to be a matter of public statement by the Attorney General?

My question to you, Mr. Speaker, is: Should not all of these questions be decided within the criminal court process, with the Attorney General having the opportunity to make, through his agents, whatever arguments he wishes to make about this whole question?

Quite obviously, Mr. Gerard Filion's advisers believe this touches upon a fair trial for Mr. Filion, and those matters are matters which should not be used for public debate in this assembly. I ask your ruling about it.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, if I may just make a comment on the point of order raised by my colleague, I think these are matters maybe you should consider in your decision. First of all, as far as Filion is concerned, I think he and his advisers are the first ones to raise this matter publicly in the province, so one certainly would have to give that some consideration.

The second thing about the Filion case—and I think the rulings as to what is sub judice before this House may be the subject of a statement that you will be making shortly—as I understand the rules and precedents set by the House of Commons, legislatures and so on, I don't think there's any impediment to making any comment or public debate about an issue before the courts as long as it is not before trial itself. As I listen to the Attorney General making certain comments as he did the other day about the Filion trial, and giving certain reasons about the difficulty of granting a trial in French in these circumstances, in my opinion, respectfully, I say this to the Chair, I frankly see nothing improper.

Mr. Speaker: It's difficult for me to make that decision. I will be covering points like that in just a few moments. But I would just caution the hon. Attorney General to be fully aware and cognizant and cautious about what he does say. I'll place the responsibility on his shoulders for anything that might possibly prejudice the trial of this learned gentleman.

Mr. Renwick: If I might, I'll just make a further comment on the matter. We have

had, as has been the custom now, an opportunity to read the statement that the Attorney General is about to make. His statement is full and complete with respect to French language services in the courts of the province of Ontario, without having to deal at all with the question of Mr. Gerard Filion. While I respect the way in which you have transferred the question to the Attorney General, I do draw your attention, and to the attention of my colleague who intervened on the point of order, that certainly in debate in this assembly we are called to order if we refer to any matter that is pending in the court or before a judge for judicial determination. I don't think we should split hairs about what that rule means.

[10:15]

I recognize that the Attorney General is making a statement before the orders of the day, and in that sense this is not a debate. But surely it is consistent with the principle of this House that it would be wise for the Attorney General to defer, and eliminate from his statement to this House, those remarks relating specifically to Mr. Gerard Filion and to use the court process as the proper place to make any statements he has about the request which Mr. Filion has made, obviously on the advice of his counsel, with respect to the facilities in that court.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I would simply like to state, Mr. Speaker, that I reject very strongly the suggestion that the balance of my statement contains any material that could possibly prejudice, influence or in any way affect the fair trial of Mr. Gerard Filion before the courts of this province.

I am not dealing with any of the evidence before the court. Much of what is contained in the balance of the two and a half pages of the statement has already been mentioned in the House. There is perhaps some additional material in relation to the issue of French-speaking juries which I think is useful information for the House.

I am satisfied there is nothing that I am going to say, and would like to say, Mr. Speaker, in the balance of my statement that could possibly interfere with the rule—and the very important rule; I recognize—of not discussing matters that would offend the rule as to matters that are before the courts in relation to what is sub judice. Those matters, of course, usually deal with the matter of discussing any evidence or aspect of the evidence that might be introduced in the courtroom. I have no intention of deal-

ing with any of the evidence that is going to be introduced in this trial.

Mr. Speaker: With that assurance, I will allow the hon. Attorney General to continue, because I think the responsibility is on his shoulders that he does not—and I am repeating myself, I realize—divulge any information which might prejudice the certain person's situation in court.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I hope you will indulge me while I make a point because of the immense significance of it. I am not suggesting for one moment that the Attorney General will be talking about matters related to evidence that will come before the court.

The important point I want to make is that Mr. Gerard Filion has been advised, obviously by his counsel, with respect to a procedural matter in the courts, which obviously Mr. Gerard Filion's adviser feels touches upon the question of whether or not there will be a fair hearing for his client.

I do not think that the rules permit a discussion of that kind of matter in debate because, in fact, procedural matters in criminal cases are in many instances just as important as, if not more important than, the actual substance of the evidence.

I want the Attorney General to understand that I am not suggesting for a moment that anything that he is going to say touches upon what evidence there may be but it touches upon a profound procedural question raised by an accused person in the criminal court process. I don't think there should be argumentative discussion in this House about that matter. It should be reserved for argument before the courts.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: This will be the final word.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Perhaps I can end the impasse by saying that I don't wish to get into debate particularly about this matter with the member for Riverdale. I respect his views and I acknowledge his concerns in relation to the administration of justice in this province.

In order to save time, since much of what I have dealt with in the statement has been mentioned in bits and pieces in this House—

Mr. Roy: That's right, you have gone through that already.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: —I am prepared simply to say that I will withhold the balance of my statement over the weekend. I will perhaps want to discuss this matter with the member for Riverdale between now and Monday, and I am prepared to leave my

statement at the point we have reached at present.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Any further statements by the ministry? The Minister of Community and Social Services.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Energy.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Energy.

An hon. member: Either way it doesn't make much difference.

Mr. Cassidy: He was bad there—worse than he is now.

MUNICIPAL ELECTRICAL UTILITIES

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Later today I shall be introducing legislation for the restructuring of the municipal electric utilities in the regions of Waterloo and Peel. The Waterloo legislation was introduced by the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) in the last session as Bill 36.

These bills are the first of a series which will result from the process started by Task Force Hydro and the government committee on the restructuring of public utilities chaired by Mr. William Hogg.

A significant feature of this legislation is that it reflects the hard work and dedication of the local study teams, the restructuring steering committee, their staff and Ontario Hydro. I would like to express my appreciation on behalf of the government to all of those involved.

Today I wish to reaffirm the government's commitment to the basic principles of the Hogg report. However, experience with restructuring studies undertaken in the past two years has indicated that strict application of these guidelines may be too restrictive in some local situations. We have, therefore, developed a more flexible interpretation of the guidelines, to ensure that the restructuring of utilities is carried out to best serve local interests.

The steps required are simple, and once complete could result in speedy resolution of the anomalies which now exist in various regions. These steps are as follows:

First: Where utility restructuring in a region or a restructured county is thought to be desirable, a review of the whole area is initiated by a local study team, assisted where appropriate by the provincial restructuring committee.

Second: The local study team evaluates and makes recommendations on a variety of options to restructure its region including a regional or upper-tier utility, lower-tier utilities and/or a temporary continuation of Ontario Hydro's rural retail system.

The basic objective is that there should be no more than one municipal hydro-electric

utility per area municipality, and that municipal utilities should take over retail service within their municipalities from Ontario Hydro. However, where it is decided locally, as part of a regional overview that a municipality cannot yet support a viable utility to serve all of its residents, then Ontario Hydro's rural retail system may continue to serve those parts of that municipality which it now serves.

The municipal council will be given the responsibility to decide when the municipal hydro-electric utility should extend its service area. In the interim, the council would review electrical supply at least every three years, and a unified municipal utility would operate any pre-existing municipal electric systems. After the council orders the service area to be extended, the municipal utility will supply retail power to all electrical customers in the municipality.

Mr. Speaker, the two bills to be introduced later today reflect the Hogg principles, as interpreted in this more flexible way to take account of local circumstances.

TRUCK WEIGHT REGULATIONS

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House of the recent activities of my ministry with respect to improved axle and gross weight legislation for commercial motor vehicles.

Ontario is one of the leading road authorities on the North American continent in developing and applying the most modern technology for the design, construction, maintenance and the overall management of its highway network. As one consequence of this, Ontario truck operators are permitted the heighest weights for commercial motor vehicles on the North American continent.

There is ample evidence to indicate that there are major cost consequences for the province if we do not clearly and firmly establish understandable and enforceable controls over both axle and gross vehicle weights.

The members are familiar with my ministry's long-standing objectives with respect to vehicle weight legislation. We are very concerned with the efficient movement of goods on our road system. This requires that transporters and shippers of goods achieve maximum payloads. On the other hand, we must balance this need with the necessity of preserving the integrity of our roads and bridges and of safety on the highways. The problem of striking a proper balance between these concerns is exceedingly complex.

I introduced a related but temporary amendment to The Highway Traffic Act last March, and I had hoped to be able to intro-

duce further and permanent legislation at this time. Our efforts to prepare legislation required discussion and consultation of our proposals with industry. In these discussions, I am pleased that there was a clear acceptance of the need to protect our roads and bridges, and of the need for a less complex and more enforceable legislation. During the discussions, a number of legitimate concerns were raised.

As a consequence of these concerns, our proposals have been significantly revised. The revised proposals are now before industry for further review which, in its turn, will result in further consultation. Therefore, I will not be able to introduce legislation during this session.

It is our earnest desire to recognize in every possible way, the legitimate concerns of the trucking and shipping public while at the same time it is our firm intention to protect the integrity and safety of the province's roads and bridges and to keep the financial consequences to the province within manageable proportions.

I am determined that further consultation will result in broad acceptance of a meaningful system to control the weights of loads to be carried in Ontario. I anticipate that the revised proposals will be acceptable to the industry and I expect to introduce the necessary legislation to mandate new weight provisions in the fall session.

HYDRO CONTRACTS

Mr. Speaker: I make the following ruling to the House:

On June 30 last, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), after putting certain questions to the Premier (Mr. Davis), asked me to take under consideration the sub-judice rule and its application concerning questions placed earlier that day. The member requested me, and I quote: "To use your good offices to see that the orders of the court are placed before the House so that we might have your guidance as to whether or not this matter, which involves Ontario Hydro and a decision by the Premier to order a secret inquiry, can or cannot be discussed in this House."

May I first say as strongly as I can that I know of no authority by which any court can prevent free discussion in this chamber. Second, I have grave reservations concerning the advisability of the Chair becoming involved in a search of court records for orders made concerning the publication of evidence at preliminary hearings. This is not my responsibility.

I did however, particularly in light of the request made by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, address a letter to the Premier asking him to provide me with a copy of the order to which he referred earlier in the day, so that I might be better informed with respect to a possible prejudicing of a criminal trial. I will speak further of this in a moment.

The Attorney General, at the request of the Premier, provided me with information that there are criminal charges being heard in the courts which have to do with the awarding of contracts relating to Ontario Hydro, the Madawaska dam and the Bruce generating station. In my view this information should be communicated to the House by the minister and not through the Speaker. I have already so informed the Attorney General. The minister may of course answer questions or decline to answer questions if he thinks this may be prejudicial to a fair trial of parties before the court.

The central issue lies in the application of the sub-judice rule, which is standing order 16(a)7(i), and I quote, "In debate a member will be called to order by the Speaker, if he refers to any matter that is pending in a court or before a judge for judicial determination."

On June 30 and subsequent days, questions were posed, the answers to which indicated that there was an order of a court baring publication of details of a criminal trial. I was placed in the difficult position of having no other information before me, and it was in this light that I cautioned the House concerning the sub-judice convention. I have now had an opportunity to reflect on this, and to study the precedents which are interesting and I hope will be helpful to the House.

May I repeat what I said earlier. No court has the ability to prevent this House from discussing any matter. The freedom of speech which this House claims as a right is not at issue because of the court order. The House however has imposed restrictions on itself and one of these restrictions is that great care is exercised in discussing matters before the court, so that statements here do not deny justice to the parties involved in the courts.

[10:30]

Standing order 16(a) places a duty on the Speaker to exercise discretion over debate in matters before the courts. Earlier this year, the House of Commons of Canada undertook a substantial examination of the sub-judice convention in the Canadian context. The report, which was presented on April 29, has

been of great assistance to me and I commend it to members. Following a lengthy recitation of precedents from Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia, the committee notes that the Parliament of Canada has been more flexible in the application of the sub judice convention than other countries. I wish to quote the final sections of that report:

Section 22: "In the view of your committee, the justification for the convention has not been established beyond all doubt, although it would not go so far as to recommend that it be totally abolished. Your committee believes, however, that any modification of the practice should be in the direction of greater flexibility rather than stricter application.

"It is not possible to determine whether or to what extent comments made in Parliament might affect the outcome of a trial or an inquiry. The Chair is seldom in possession of the necessary information to determine whether or not prejudicial effect is likely. It follows that the House should not be unduly fettered by a convention, the basis of which is uncertain.

"On no account should the convention, which has been applied infrequently in years past, come to be regarded as a fixed and binding rule. It is not reasonable, for example, that Parliament should be any more limited in its debates concerning judicial proceedings than is the press in reporting such proceedings."

In section 23: "Your committee has given consideration to the role of the Speaker in the application of the convention. It is submitted that while there can be no substitute for the discretion of the Chair in the last resort, all members of the House should share in the responsibility of exercising restraint when it seems called for. A member who feels that there could be a risk of causing prejudice in referring to a particular case or inquiry should refrain from raising the matter. Additionally, a member who calls for the suppression of discussion on a matter on grounds of sub judice should be obliged to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Chair that he has reasonable grounds for fearing that prejudice might result.

"Should a question to a minister touch upon a matter of sub judice it is likely that the minister involved will have more information concerning the matter than the Speaker. The minister might be better able to judge whether answering the question might cause prejudice. In such a situation, the minister could refuse to answer the question on these grounds, bearing in mind that refusal to

answer a question is his prerogative in any event.

"It is the view of your committee that the responsibility of the Chair during the question period should be minimal as regards the sub judice convention and that the responsibility should principally rest upon the member who asked the question and the minister to whom it is addressed."

Section 24 states: "Your committee is of the opinion that precise regulations concerning the application of the sub judice convention cannot be evolved, and that it would be unwise to attempt to do so. Your committee recommends that the Speaker should remain the final arbiter in the matter, that he should retain the authority to prevent discussion of matters in the House on the ground of sub judice, but that he should only exercise this discretion in exceptional cases where it is clear to him that to do otherwise could be harmful to specific individuals.

"In exercising this discretion, your committee recommends that when there is doubt in the mind of the Chair, a presumption should exist in favour of allowing debate and against the application of the convention. In view of your committee, prejudice is most likely to occur in respect of criminal cases and civil cases of defamation where juries are involved."

I can see no reason why similar principles ought not to guide the members of this House.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: We'll now have oral questions. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. S. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for that excellent ruling.

HYDRO CONTRACTS

Mr. S. Smith: A question of the Premier. Is the Premier now prepared to tell the House under what authority he appointed Mr. Justice Campbell Grant; what were his terms of reference; what were the costs of the inquiry and under what budget did this money come; were persons called to testify under oath during this inquiry; and, if so, under what authority?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think there are some parts of that question that would be appropriate for me to answer. In fact, if memory serves me correctly, I've already answered some.

Mrs. Campbell: One.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect to the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) my recollection is that there are two or three. But I'll see if I can recall accurately what I said.

I think, Mr. Speaker, I explained to members of this House that on certain matters the Premier of this province—and this also applies to ministers—not only have a right, they have an obligation, to seek out information and to get reports, whether it is done on a confidential or non-confidential basis. I asked Mr. Justice Grant to assess certain matters, to conduct an investigation. That investigation, as I have said, is completed.

As I said to the Leader of the Opposition and to the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk there is a court order and, even apart from the order itself, there is no question whatsoever in my mind—and I've had some limited experience in terms of the courts—that this is a matter which should not be discussed in this Legislature at this time.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I'm looking forward to the opportunity of sharing the contents of Mr. Justice Campbell Grant's report with the members opposite. On the first occasion that's available to me as Premier of this province—because the trial is to commence this fall—I intend to share that information with all of those honourable members who are interested.

With respect to the question of how it is to be paid for, obviously there are means whereby this can be done. I was reluctant to mention this to the hon. members of the House, but Mr. Justice Campbell Grant, being the kind of person that he is, has declined to accept any payment for what he regarded as a matter of public responsibility.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of a supplementary: the question of whether there were costs involved, apart from remuneration to Mr. Justice Grant, has still not been addressed by the Premier. May I ask him also to address himself, if he would, as to whether witnesses were called to testify under oath and, if so, under what authority? Perhaps, if he would answer those questions further supplementaries may result.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think this matter was already referred to in the press. I do want to say that one is sometimes disappointed, being in public life, in the press—not too often. The information upon which I asked Mr. Justice Campbell Grant to conduct this investigation has been available to the members of the media for some months. I want to compli-

ment the vast majority of responsible journalists who have stayed away from discussing this issue, or attempting to, in the press, because I think it is fundamental to the administration of justice in this province that an order of the court of this nature be observed.

In terms of how Mr. Justice Campbell Grant conducted his investigation, he did it within the limitations that were imposed by that court order. I would only assume, that most of the people he discussed it with because it was not under The Public Inquiries Act, were not under oath. This would be my assessment.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I say to the Leader of the Opposition that I know that there is some interest, and I think a very understandable one; I would say this to him and more particularly to his colleague on his left (Mr. Nixon) and to the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy), who has had some experience in the administration of justice in this province and, I sense, has some respect for it and some concern about it.

As I have said prior to this, I am really most anxious to share Mr. Justice Campbell Grant's report with not only the members of the House, but the public. But I say without any hesitation whatsoever, a discussion of the information that led to my asking Mr. Justice Campbell Grant for that report is without question sub judice. Discussion of it in this House would be, without doubt, prejudicial to the case, both in terms of the accused and to the Crown. I have shared as much as I think I properly can with the members of this House at this moment.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Point of order.

Mr. Nixon: I wonder, sir, following your ruling, whether you or the Premier could not make it clear to this House what events are, in fact, before the courts and what makes it sub judice as far as our discussion is concerned? Are there individuals in this province charged with something having to do with the award of Hydro contracts? If so, I'm not aware of those charges. How can we be? Is there such a charge before the courts involving the award of Hydro contracts?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the Attorney General might properly answer that. To my best recollection, the answer to that is no.

Mr. Nixon: Then what's sub judice?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted, I can be of assistance at this time. There are a number of charges before the courts, and the evidence adduced at the preliminary inquiry, including the evidence that seems to be of greatest interest to the members opposite, is relevant to these charges one way or another.

I am not going to go into the details other than to say this: The preliminary hearing into these charges commenced on November 4, 1976, and at that time His Honour Chief Judge Hayes made an order pursuant to section 467 of the Criminal Code prohibiting the publication or broadcast of the evidence taken at the preliminary hearing. That's when the order was made.

Following the questions that were asked in this House and following the occasion of the letter from the Speaker to the Premier of this province, I requested a legal opinion from the director of the Crown law office, Mr. R. M. McLeod, who is not only the director of the Crown law office but is also in charge of the particular prosecution.

The question that was put to Mr. McLeod by myself was as follows: "Should the activities or statements of any person in relation to the awarding of Ontario Hydro contracts relating to the Madawaska dam or the Bruce generating station, or the details of any inquiry conducted by or on behalf of the government of Ontario with respect to those contracts, be brought forward in the Legislature by way of motion, debate, question or otherwise?"

In delivering his opinion to me, Mr. McLeod said in part: "Please find attached an opinion prepared by me in this matter. This opinion contains references to the evidence in the preliminary hearing in the matter of Regina versus Filion et al and accordingly ought not to be published in any newspaper or broadcast." In relation to the issue that was put to Mr. McLeod, his opinion is: "No, any such motion, debate or question would be in relation to a matter which is sub judice."

Mr. Nixon: Further to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, would you not agree with me that a statement such as that should have been put before the House and not left to your discretion in order to make a ruling lacking that information? Would you not agree with me that the Premier and the Attorney General failed in their responsibility to this House in not putting that information?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Nonsense.

Mr. Nixon: Instead of that, the Premier indicated the questions were silly—he used

that word—and then he just recently advised my leader to simply assist in restraining his colleagues to his left from asking these questions.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, not the questions; the innuendoes. The innuendoes were silly, and the member knows it. Hearken back to 1975. The member knows this is what happened to his people before.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: Would you not agree, Mr. Speaker, that the Attorney General and the Premier had the responsibility to make such a statement to this House for you to rule on their veracity, and that they have failed in their duties?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Live and learn.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If I had felt that the statements were improper at the time, I would have taken action. I placed the responsibility, I think, in the proper places this morning in my ruling, first of all, on the members who are asking the question and on the appropriate minister. And I believe that most people are trying to exercise that responsibility properly this morning.

Mr. Reid: How can we do that without any knowledge?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You will have an occasion.

Mr. Reid: How can we make a decision whether it is sub judice?

Mr. Speaker: I would ask you to continue with that exercise from here on.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, your colleague from Riverdale summed it up very well.

Mr. Roy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General has just expressed an opinion about which my colleague from Brant has expressed some concern. I share that concern because that seems to be a very wide opinion. Our concern is basically this: Fine, there's a court order at the time of the preliminary hearing; and I think the Attorney General will agree with me that a court order is basically directed at the press to prevent broadcast and publication and not, as the Premier stated the other day, to prevent discussion—and I am quoting Hansard. My point is this, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Pope: It has been said before. Let's get with it.

Mr. Roy: Well, I am quoting from Hansard.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member keep to his point of order?

Mr. Pope: Let's get on with it.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: All you say is that the questions are silly.

Mr. Roy: Look at Hansard. I am quoting the Premier from Hansard.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member please continue with his point of order through the Chair?

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I am being challenged by the Premier. I will read him his answer where he said—

Interjection.

Mr. Cassidy: If he feels that way then read the stuff into the record. The Premier is on very sticky ground.

[10:45]

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: The Premier, in answer to a question, said: "Mr. Speaker, I cannot. There is an order related to the matter before the courts to which this question refers, which order prohibits any discussion or publication of material." I am quoting the Premier and I say that that is not what the court order says.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You know what was intended.

Mr. Roy: My point is that surely when we are talking about sub judice, as has been mentioned by the Attorney General, we are talking about the evidence itself at the preliminary hearing. We cannot be bound by the rule of sub judice when we are talking about an inquiry, terms of reference and about how that inquiry was set up. Where is the authority for this? Are we establishing a precedent?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is getting to be a debate, partly on the Speaker's ruling and partly on other matters. I think we should continue on, bearing in mind the ruling I delivered earlier. We will go on from this point in time. The hon. Leader of the Opposition had a supplementary and I should defer to him first of all.

Mr. S. Smith: Since it appears from the Premier's answers that the secret inquiry was conducted without witnesses being sworn, can the Premier explain how he can be quite as confident as he claims to be that all is in order and that the inquiry report need not concern us? How can he be that confident without witnesses having had their testimony taken under oath?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I never said the report would or would not concern the hon. member. I never made any such statement. I thought I was very clear in saying I was looking forward to the opportunity of sharing that report with the members of this House. The hon. Leader of the Opposition will then make his judgement based on that report. I am not saying he will or will not be enthusiastic.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary: I don't think this matter is going to die; it will be coming up again. I want an assurance from the Premier that—

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Cassidy: Since the court order about publication relates to the evidence of a preliminary hearing and expires at the time the trial begins, does the Premier's statement mean he will be tabling Mr. Justice Grant's inquiry report and open this matter up to discussion as soon as or shortly after the trial begins in the fall?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have never found the member for Ottawa Centre not to be one who understood the English language.

Mr. MacDonald: Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think I made it abundantly clear that I was looking forward to the opportunity, at the first possible moment, of sharing the contents of Mr. Justice Campbell Grant's report with not only members of the House, but the media and the public.

Mr. Speaker: We have now spent about 20 minutes on this and it is a very important question, but we will have one supplementary here and one more over there.

Mr. S. Smith: The government ordered a secret inquiry.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There is a confidential inquiry.

Mr. Roy: Fully understanding the Premier's dilemma about the order at the preliminary hearing, I would like to ask him this question: Is he not concerned, as Premier of the province, about the type of precedent involved in setting up a secret inquiry as has been created in this case? Is he not concerned, for instance, as we are, that there is no accountability either to the public, to the opposition, to the press or even to members of his own cabinet? Is he not concerned that we establish guidelines for the future when a Premier of the province finds himself in that type of difficulty? Would the Premier not consider, when he is asking a Supreme Court judge to set up this type of inquiry, depositing with the Chief Justice

his report of that judge? Would the Premier do that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I sometimes am impressed by the logic of the member for Ottawa East on some issues; I say that to him very frankly. This is not one of those occasions.

Mr. Nixon: This is one such occasion.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Nor, for that matter, was his judgement of last night.

Mr. Roy: My judgement's pretty good.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Wentworth.

An hon. member: Your team don't look like winners on this one either.

Mr. Wildman: The summer of discontent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Wentworth.

Mr. Deans: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not trying to impress—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Wentworth.

Mr. Deans: Good—are we all set now?

Hon. Mr. Davis: You're going to be disappointed when you see the report.

Mr. S. Smith: I am not worried about the contents.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Tell me how else you would do it.

Mr. Deans: It's getting a little awkward. I don't want to try to impress—

Hon. Mr. Davis: I thought we had the last supplementary, I'm sorry.

Mr. Deans: Damn it. Will you listen?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Wentworth is asking a supplementary of the Premier, I believe.

Mr. Deans: I'm sorry, but it does become a little offensive after a while. I'm not trying to impress anyone with my wisdom. I don't profess to have any in this field.

(Applause.)

Mr. Havrot: You asked for it.

Mr. Deans: That's fine. I want to ask the Premier a question for the sake of getting an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We're wasting time. The hon. member for Wentworth has the floor, quite properly.

Mr. Deans: I just want to ask the Premier for the sake of knowing: Why would he have chosen to set up a private inquiry rather than to have pursued this matter—if there was any indication to him of the need for an inquiry of any kind at all—by going through the

office of the Solicitor General, as might normally have been expected in matters such as this; to have an inquiry undertaken and to have the evidence, if there was any, of whatever it was that he was looking for, on the record and properly pursued? Why would he go and appoint some secret committee to look into something that was obviously a matter of public concern?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I understand the acting leader and the House leader is not as familiar as his colleague from Riverdale is with respect to these matters.

Mr. Deans: He doesn't understand either.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You don't understand him either? Well, I did and I think he raised this question on another matter earlier this morning and put it rather well.

Mr. Cassidy: No, entirely different.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member for Ottawa Centre can disagree with the member for Riverdale. I wouldn't doubt that for a moment. One is a very intelligent, logical—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. Premier will please refer to the question of the hon. member for Wentworth—

Hon. Mr. Davis: I didn't know the member for Riverdale was planning to get out on the member for Ottawa Centre's campaign. That would be a fatal error.

An hon. member: You worry about your own campaign.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the answer is very simple. Because of the limitations imposed in terms of an existing court order, the options open to me in an attempt to deal with something that gave me concern were very limited. I pursued an option that I believed to be right—I still believe it to be right—and it is a report that will be shared with all of the members.

Mr. Roy: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition with his second question.

Mr. S. Smith: The second question is to the Premier.

Mr. Roy: Are we going into another project?

Mr. Speaker: That was a final supplementary on that question.

Mr. S. Smith: With regard to the inquiry by Mr. Justice Grant, can the Premier confirm that he issued the following statement as quoted in the *Globe and Mail*? The Premier is alleged to have said, "Let me as-

sure the citizens of Ontario that I had the matter thoroughly reviewed when it was first brought to my attention some months ago. I have been assured that there is no foundation to suggestions such as those implied in the story."

If the Premier can confirm that he did make that statement, can he explain how he could have been quite that assured and reassuring if the inquiry did not swear any witnesses under oath?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I made a judgement and I am confident of the judgement I made when I issued that statement as a result of a certain story in the *Globe and Mail*—apart from the innuendoes that it contained, which I thought were unfortunate. I have no reservation in so stating that I have confidence in Mr. Justice Campbell Grant's report. Yes, I make no bones about it. The Leader of the Opposition may or may not, and that's a judgement he will have to make.

Mr. Reid: A supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Rainy River does not have the floor; the hon. Leader of the Opposition might have a supplementary.

Mr. S. Smith: Regarding the confidence the Premier has in the inquiry and related to that, can he tell the House how many other such confidential inquiries, as he calls them, have been conducted in the duration of his service as Premier of this province? Can he explain why his cabinet colleagues, notably the Minister of Energy, had no knowledge of the fact that such an inquiry was being carried on?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The Minister of Energy had no knowledge because it did not involve the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Roy: Or Hydro.

Hon. Mr. Davis: To the best of my knowledge this is the one occasion where I have exercised a certain judgement because of the limitation of a matter that was then and is at present before the courts. It is a decision that I would make again tomorrow or the next day if faced with the same set of facts. The Leader of the Opposition can calculate the number of royal commissions, some of them brought about at the suggestion of his colleagues who sit with him, and it is interesting to note that on those rather controversial, sensitive inquiries or select committees, without exception they all resulted in a very positive decision as it related to the matter that was under inquiry.

Mr. Roy: You changed your procedure.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Some day the members opposite ought to calculate the number they have helped bring about, the cost to the taxpayers of this province, and the results that have ensued.

Mr. Nixon: The Hydro report published in *Great Political Scandals of Canada*.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is why you lost seats. That is why you are where you are.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are wasting valuable question period time. We will allow one final supplementary on this whole matter.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Cassidy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Premier admits it was his judgement that led him to decide to ask Mr. Justice Campbell Grant to carry out this inquiry, is he also saying—and I want to be very clear about this—that, in his opinion, when he exercised that judgement, the effect of the court order was to inhibit him from referring a matter to the Solicitor General (Mr. MacBeth) for investigation by the OPP?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I didn't say that at all.

Mr. Cassidy: That certainly is what came out.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I said it was the final supplementary in this whole matter because we have spent 25 minutes on it now.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Other members want to ask questions this morning. I will call on the hon. member for Wentworth with his questions.

Mr. Deans: I am sorry, but I want to go back to it because I am not satisfied with what is happening. In relation to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, are there any other similar incidents that have occurred during the last 10 years, that the Premier can recall, in which he chose to exercise what he calls his option of taking a private citizen and asking him to conduct an inquiry into a matter which may well have fallen within the scope of an inquiry that should have been conducted by the OPP?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, (a) the latter part of that question is erroneous, and (b) I don't really regard Mr. Justice Campbell Grant as a private citizen in that sense of the word. He is a former member of the High Court of this province, and can hardly be regarded as a private citizen.

Mr. Deans: He is a private citizen.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As regards the first part of the question, I can't speak for the last 10 years. I can speak for the last six and the answer to that part of the question is no.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Would the Premier be good enough to explain to us then why he felt it appropriate to use a private citizen who had retired from the bench to conduct a personal inquiry into a matter that was of public concern?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think that is a judgement that is quite proper for the Premier of this province to make. I don't know what the hon. acting leader and House leader is attempting to get me to say. I have said all I can and helped him as much I can. Certain information came to my attention. I was concerned. I asked Mr. Justice Campbell Grant to look into these matters and prepare a report for me, which he has done, and which report—when that court order no longer exists—I am more than prepared to share and am looking forward to sharing with the members opposite. They can have their debate then.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: Can the Premier tell us the exact date when he ordered or asked for this inquiry? Secondly, did he discuss the matter with the Solicitor General and the Attorney General before he spoke to Mr. Justice Campbell Grant?

[11:00]

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I can't give the hon. member the exact date at the moment. I'll endeavour to find that for him. I can only tell him it was many weeks before that story appeared in the midst of the election—some many, many weeks before. I think I can honestly state that I did not discuss it with the Solicitor General. I did discuss certain aspects with the Attorney General.

Mr. Reid: Can you reveal your sources?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the member for Rainy River asked me if I would reveal my sources. I would look to the precedents established by the hon. member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Ziemba).

Mr. Martel: You might not want to go to the Don Jail, though.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member for Ottawa East. The question had to do with any other similar incidents—

Mr. Roy: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary should deal with the original question asked by the member for Wentworth, which had to do with any other similar investigations by a person of Mr. Justice Campbell Grant's—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are straying back over the same question asked earlier, and really there was a different question asked over here.

Mr. Roy: Supplementary to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, pertaining to the question asked by my colleague from Wentworth about the appointing of Mr. Justice Grant for this inquiry: Cannot the Premier understand that, as I understand it, the allegations were serious allegations made either against—

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Surely this isn't a question.

Mr. Roy: Are you going to start ruling as well?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Roy: Your opinion is no help.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Albert, that is a very low form of politics; it is not worthy of you.

Mr. Martel: You should know about that, Bill. You are an expert in that field.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member place his supplementary question?

Mr. Roy: My question to the Premier is, can he not understand that by setting up something that is secret, with no accountability to anyone, investigating something pertaining either to himself or his government—

Mr. Speaker: That's not supplementary to the original question.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: And it is nonsense; absolute nonsense.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Reid: The facts speak for themselves.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I point out to the hon. member that this has nothing to do with the question—it is not related to the question by the member for Wentworth. If he'd relate his question to the question from the member for Wentworth, we would allow him—

Mrs. Campbell: He is squirming.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. member have a supplementary to the hon. member for Wentworth's question?

Mr. Roy: Yes, as I understand it, the member for Wentworth asked why Mr. Justice Grant was appointed and when Mr. Justice Grant was, in fact, appointed—

Mr. Speaker: He asked how many similar appointments were made.

Mr. Roy: Yes, and I am right on that. My point to the Premier is this, on the basis of accountability, following that question, why will the Premier not take the opposition into his confidence?

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: He won't take anybody else. He won't take the cabinet. Is he not concerned about the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is not heeding my request. The hon. member for Wentworth with his second question.

INCOME MAINTENANCE

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. Has the minister conducted any study into the pilot project currently under way on income maintenance for low-income families to enable them to continue to work? Does he have any indication now as to whether or not he is going to expand that program in an effort to enable other people to get into the work force?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The matter is under consideration in the ministry and I would hope to be in a better position to assess that by this fall.

Mr. Deans: Is he able to give the House assurances that he is not considering abandoning the program?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can assure the House that I am certainly not considering that at this point in time.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary—at least I trust it will be ruled to be a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member place it?

Mrs. Campbell: In the light of the original question, is it the minister's intention perhaps to increase the FBA benefits in time to pass the costs over to the municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that I understand what that question is directed at.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may repeat it.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, if one looks at the Robarts report and the recommendation that FBA obligations and privileges should be transferred to the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, I am asking the minister, is he prepared only to look at the increase in FBA benefits as he passes that through to Metropolitan Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I'm still not entirely clear what it is that the member wants to know.

Mrs. Campbell: It is in reference to the Robarts recommendations.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I realize it's in reference to the Robarts recommendations. Perhaps at this point all I should say to the hon. member is that I have only very recently received a copy of the Robarts report. It's at present under consideration and perhaps I'd be in a better position to respond to the question after I've had a chance to consider it more.

FIRE REGULATIONS

Mr. Epp: I have a question for the Solicitor General. Has the minister received representation from the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee with respect to The Fire Department Act? If so, did the representations detail specific proposals for amendment, and what has the minister done with reference to these representations?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Yes, we have had some definite requests from the municipal liaison people requesting a good number of amendments to the various fire Acts, and we have them under review. I had hoped at one time that we would be able to introduce them this year. Then when we had this earlier election, I hoped we would be able to introduce them this fall. I had also hoped we would be making more progress at the present time.

Mr. Martel: Who called the election?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: With the amount of speed that the House is making on legislation, I don't know when we'll get to it.

Mr. Epp: In view of the fact that the civil service would not be involved in the election and that it would have a chance to work during the election period, what has this to do with the holdup of the proposals being brought to Parliament in early fall?

Mr. Martel: Some civil servants at the top were involved, Michael Starr for one.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Solicitor General have a further reply?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, is it not proper for the minister to reply to a question?

Mr. Speaker: It is at the hon. minister's discretion.

MUNICIPAL ELECTRICAL UTILITIES

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Minister of Energy. It relates to his statement this morning on the structuring of municipal

electric utilities. In view of one clause on page 3, which recommends that "the municipal council be given the responsibility to decide when the municipal hydro-electric utility should extend its service area," could I ask the minister if that means the freeze is lifted in a place such as Niagara and that the city of Welland will be able to proceed, prior to any restructuring bill, to take in the rural area in that city?

If the answer is no, as I suspect it will be, in view of his letter to the chairman of the hydro-electric commission of Welland which states, "It is my hope that changes to the guidelines can be agreed upon shortly which will facilitate speedy resolution of the long-standing issues, such as in the city of Welland," would the minister explain how these new guidelines will speed up the solution of the differential in the rates in Welland and elsewhere in the Niagara Peninsula—gross differentials which have existed for seven years?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: The member has already answered the first part of that question.

Mr. Breaugh: He asked the minister and he ought to answer him.

Mr. Grande: He answered his own question?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Yes, he asked a question, and then he answered the question for us.

In regard to the second part of the question, my concern was to provide as much flexibility as possible to reflect the wishes of the local people. It was for that reason that the stringent guidelines laid down, as a result of the Hogg report, have been softened a little bit, as I indicated.

For example, all of a municipality now would not have to be included in a new utilities commission. For example, a part of a municipality may still remain under rural Hydro. It was that type of adjustment that I was trying to accommodate in the spirit of expediting, if possible, the restructuring and with the views of the local people in mind.

Mr. Swart: That requires a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister not aware that the holdup in the changes of the boundaries in the city of Welland has nothing to do with the recommendation of the changes in his report? In view of that, will he not then give some further consideration to speeding up the situation in the city of Welland and giving the municipalities there the right to incorporate the rural areas into the municipality so the differential rates do not continue?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Again, Mr. Speaker, may I invite my friend to meet with me again? I met with him and his delegation earlier this spring.

Mr. Swart: They got nowhere.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: I'm well aware of the particular problems there.

An hon. member: Why don't you do something about them?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: The hon. member has to be mindful of the fact that it takes that co-operation at the local level to make these changes. I'd be very happy, as I've invited him to do, for the member to meet with us again. I'll do everything possible to accommodate the will of the local people.

Mr. Swart: This was supposed to change.

PEACH CROP

Mr. Hall: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Is the minister aware of the fact that 1,500 to 2,000 tons of this year's freestone peach crop may not be processed, and would he outline what steps he is taking to overcome this apparent deficiency so as to protect the growers?

Hon. W. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware of the fact that there could be—was the hon. member talking about the clingstones?

Mr. Hall: Freestones.

Hon. W. Newman: Freestones. That's a little better. I am fully aware of the freestone situation. We have had meetings, I have had discussions and we are working on a solution for it right now.

Mr. Germa: Put the wagons in a circle.

Mr. Makarchuk: Instant bull from Bill.

MINISTER'S ANSWERS

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. Will the minister indicate to the House what private or public aversion, or both, she has that prevents her from answering questions that are put to her in this Legislature, in a public manner through this Legislature, rather than via a private letter to the member involved? Is this a procedure becoming a policy of her ministry and does the minister realize that this new policy does not afford a member of this Legislature the opportunity to ask supplementary questions?

Hon. B. Stephenson: It is certainly not a policy of the ministry, Mr. Speaker. The reason I sent a letter to the hon. member to

answer the question which he had asked, was that the information was not entirely forthcoming before the end of the session. However, I did have the information before the beginning of the next session. I felt that if he'd asked the question, he must have wanted to have the information; therefore, I sent it to him by letter, hoping he would find this satisfactory. He does not. Mr. Speaker, I shall get the copy of the letter and read it in the House, if that's what the hon. member wants.

Mr. Havrot: More verbal fertilizer.

PCB SPILL

Mr. Bradley: My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Further to my inquiry Monday concerning regulations covering containers to transport PCBs, would the minister inform the House whether two more Kingsway Transport trucks, in addition to the one involved in the spill in St. Catharines last week, were inspected by officials of the Ministry of the Environment here in Toronto this week and found to include additional leaking PCB containers?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are two more trucks owned by that particular company which apparently have been hauling PCB-contaminated material from the west to New York state through Ontario. As a result of the accident or spill that happened in the hon. member's constituency—this information was garnered from the company, of course, as to the extent of hauling they are doing of this particular material—it was disclosed that two other trucks were involved and they were inspected.

[11:15]

I wasn't aware that it was indicated there had been spills from those trucks as well. However, they were inspected and, apparently the company has been advised that there's a possibility of prosecution—and also that it is not to haul this type of material in that way in that type of vehicle.

Mr. Bradley: A supplementary: Could the minister inform the House whether a special environmental licence is required to transport polychlorinated biphenyls? If so, has Kingsway Transport been issued such a licence?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I'm not aware of that, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member appreciates, this is interprovincial travel. As a matter of fact, it's international transportation. It is my understanding that the company has to get a permit at the point of commencement—in this case, Saskatchewan. I'm not aware of any permit required in this province for such type of transportation.

WINDSOR TEACHERS' DISPUTE

Mr. Cooke: I have a question of the Minister of Education. Is the minister aware of the present situation between the Windsor Board of Education and its secondary school teachers, where a contract has still not been signed for the year 1976 due to complications with the AIB? I wonder if the minister is prepared to intervene, as he must consider the relationship that the board has had with its teachers, in order to speed up the process with the AIB?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I will be glad to discuss this matter with the Education Relations Commission and look into it. If there's anything that they or we can do that would be in the normal procedure we'll consider it.

Mr. Cooke: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The minister, then, is saying that he will approach the ERC? I have done that and they said that they won't intervene—

Mr. Speaker: Is this a supplementary question?

Mr. Cooke: Yes, I want a commitment. I'm asking the minister if he is giving a commitment that he will approach the ERC. They have said they're reluctant to intervene because they didn't appoint the arbitrator last year.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The only assurance that I will give the member is that I will discuss it with the Education Relations Commission. That's the only commitment that I will give at this time.

VACANT HYDRO BUILDING

Mr. Kerrio: I have a question of the Minister of Energy. Could the minister advise the House if the Hydro building at 620 University is generating any income at this time?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: I believe that's the old Hydro building that the member is referring to. It is vacant and accordingly I would surmise that it is not generating any income.

Mr. Kerrio: A supplementary: Is the minister pursuing any prospective lessees or, in the alternative, some disposition of that very valuable property?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Yes, it's my understanding that Ontario Hydro has been trying to sell the property or, alternatively, to lease it. If the member has any prospective customers we'd be delighted to hear from him.

Mr. Kerrio: That kind of an answer deserves a supplementary question.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Only if you have a customer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Eddie Sargent has one already.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Sudbury East with a supplementary.

Mr. Wiseman: Here is the leader.

Mr. Martel: Would the minister consider the need of the Legislature, when the third report of the select committee comes in? We will have to close part of this building for renovations, if the decision is made to adopt the third report, so would the minister consider saving that building for the needs of the Legislature?

Mr. Breithaupt: What about the press gallery?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: I suppose that could be one consideration. Of course, taken in light of the government not to expand unnecessarily its staff, its bureaucracy and so forth—

Mr. Martel: Just during renovations.

Mr. Roy: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick supplementary; hydro is an important thing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Port Arthur.

SEAWAY TOLLS

Mr. Foulds: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications with regard to the government's position on the federal government's proposed increase in Seaway tolls. First of all, I want to thank him for sending me the statement that he's made so far.

With reference to the statement that he made on March 4, could the minister tell me the membership of the study committees that he has established? Can he indicate to this House when that study will be completed and when this government will have a firm position on the increase in Seaway tolls, and would he consider having the committee contact the western Premiers, and the ministers of transportation of the three prairie provinces in particular, to investigate the impact that the Seaway tolls will have on the traffic of grain from the prairies to the port at Thunder Bay?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I did send the hon. member copies of statements and press releases which we have issued relating to this proposed increase in Seaway tolls. I can't name all the members on that committee—I believe they are mainly members of my transportation planning research staff with, perhaps,

some outside members as well. I will get the member the make-up of that committee.

I understand—and I believe I mentioned it in my letter to the hon. member—that the committee will be reporting to me in the very near future. I can't give him an exact date when they will have their report ready but I understand it won't be too much longer. What we are really looking at is the adverse effect, or any effect, that the changes in Seaway tolls could have on not only shipment by water but by other modes as well.

As far as dealing with the other provinces is concerned, all the ministers of transportation or highways or whatever their counterpart may be, do meet periodically. We met in Quebec City last September. Seaway tolls and ports policy was one thing we discussed at that time. We will be meeting again this September and we do have informal communications between these regular meetings, but I don't know at this moment whether Seaway tolls will be on the agenda for the meeting in September or not. It may very well be. Perhaps, if it isn't, it should be.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary. Could I ask the minister to make direct contact with his three prairie counterparts with regard to this problem, particularly as it relates to the grain-handling industry? Can I get that commitment from him?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Well, yes. I will be happy to. To my knowledge, I have not had any correspondence brought to my attention from the ministers of transport for the prairie provinces. I saw some of the ministers and people connected with transportation in Edmonton a couple of weeks ago. It wasn't mentioned to me, but I will make contact and see what their views are.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: Is the minister not concerned that if the tolls are raised by any considerable amount there may be plans on the part of the Americans to build the canal on their side?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have no information on that. Certainly, as far as the tolls are concerned any negotiations taking place with the United States government are being handled by Transport Canada, through the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who deals with that type of negotiation with another country. We have had no negotiations on it. I have had no indication of any proposal to build another canal.

FOSTER CHILDREN'S TRIP

Mr. Baetz: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services: A story in yesterday's Globe and Mail sug-

gested that certain foster parents in Metro Toronto might be profiteering from taking their foster children on a vacation to Italy and, further, that a senior official of the ministry has agreed with this practice. Has the minister checked into these allegations, particularly since it involves the expenditure of public funds?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, I have.

First of all—

Mr. Roy: Was the question a surprise?

Mr. Grossman: We are not allowed to ask questions. Only you guys can ask them.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —I would like to comment that the article that the hon. member refers to is, I suggest, a fine example of how the selective use of information and the selective sorting out of information and leaving out of information available to a reporter on a story can be very destructive. It can be destructive of an institution known as “foster-parenting” in this province, and also destructive of the efforts of some very sincere people who are engaged in child care.

I would like specifically to deal with the allegations with respect to the financial aspects of that vacation.

The moneys that are involved, and which were referred to in the story as in excess of \$5,000, are moneys that are normally paid to the foster parents on a per diem basis for the care of the children under their care. The only additional money that is to be paid to the foster parents in this particular instance is approximately \$25 per child per week as a vacation expense. I don't think any member of this House or any member of the public, if they were given the full and accurate information, would ever accuse foster parents of profiteering when they take children on a vacation with a vacation allowance of \$25 a week.

ANNEXATION APPLICATIONS

Mr. Nixon: I wanted to put a question to the Treasurer pertaining to the application for annexation by the Town of Tillsonburg before the Municipal Board, directed against the township of Norfolk in the regional municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk. Since the Treasurer, in my view properly, has not allowed this to go before the Municipal Board for hearing, what steps can he take to solve this situation so that the development plans in the township of Norfolk can go forward unimpeded?

Hon. Mr. McKeough: There are several requests for boundary changes, not only Tillsonburg's request but also some indica-

tion that Woodstock feels there should be a change of boundaries affecting two or three townships within the county of Oxford. I wrote to the warden of Oxford and to the constituent municipalities and asked them some months ago to indicate to me what they might think all the boundary changes were—or proposed—not necessarily what would happen. I suggested that hopefully they would be dealt with at one time, rather than spread out over a period of time. As the member is aware, annexations can be and are not only expensive but divisive.

It had been my hope that perhaps, rather than go the Ontario Municipal Board route, since this was a restructured county, we might go a hearing officer route, perhaps using the board as a hearing officer, and leading to recommendations to me which would come forward to the Legislature in the form of legislation. I hoped in some way to avoid—and I am not wedded to that proposal—the enormous expense of annexations of which the ongoing saga of Barrie and certain townships is the latest.

I have not yet heard back from the county of Oxford. I think they indicated to me that they expected to have a reply in June, which is now past. I will look into that and see just where it is and, quite frankly, prod them somewhat, because Tillsonburg has expressed a desire to enlarge its boundaries. Whether it is appropriate that they do or not, or how large that enlargement should be, is not for me to say or comment on. But I think at some point they should have an answer, as perhaps should Woodstock.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: Since the hearing officer route could very well be used to involve the boundary changes within the restructured county of Oxford, why couldn't the Treasurer proceed that way, but exclude the area within Haldimand-Norfolk? That had its boundaries established by this Legislature—although not unanimously—just three years ago. This would give Oxford a chance to build on the structures of the lower two municipalities established at that time.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: I think that we could debate this at some time, and no doubt will during our estimates. But Tillsonburg is the urban centre and I think, putting it in a very simplistic way, if there is to be urban growth, it may well be into a township which happens to be in another regional municipality. Putting it very, very simply, I think that urban growth would probably be better within one community within one municipality rather than spilling over into a township.

[11:30]

The member, among others, has raised on number of occasions the ongoing saga of Multi-Mall, and we are heading down that very path again unless there is some adjustment to boundaries.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary: Is the Multi-Mall now included in the town of Chatham? Oh, it's not.

Hon. Mr. McKeough: No.

SUDBURY POLICE DISPUTE

Mr. Martel: A question to the Solicitor General: Would he personally intervene in the dispute between the police commission and the police association in Sudbury by coming there personally to meet with both sides to see if he could help resolve the differences which are apparently tearing that police association apart?

Hon. Mr. MacBeth: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked me a question along that line the other day. I did say that the police commission had looked into it to see what it could do about getting the parties together and the negotiations were still on. They dropped it at that time. As recently as this morning I asked them to pick it up again.

I realize it's serious and I'm quite prepared to do what I can. If it means a personal trip to Sudbury to try to get the people together, I'm very pleased to do it.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

HYDRO CONTRACTS

Mr. Roy: Can I, as I am supposed to do according to the standing orders as I see the amendment, advise you, Mr. Speaker, as the new amendment reads, that I give you verbal notice of my intent to raise a matter in the debate immediately at the end of the question period? That's what I'm doing, and I'm saying I'm very, very dissatisfied with the answers given by the Premier here this morning and I intend to raise it at the adjournment of the House, as I'm supposed to do.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If you are here.

Mr. Roy: I will be here.

FIRE REGULATIONS

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the standing orders of the House, I would like to give notice to you that I'm dissatisfied with the answer of the Solicitor General and I would hope that we would pursue this.

Mr. Speaker: As the hon. member knows if he reads the instruction, there's another

step to take and then it will be debated next Tuesday.

Petitions.

REPORTS

ONTARIO TELEPHONE SERVICES COMMISSION

Hon. Mr. Snow presented the annual report of the Ontario Telephone Services Commission for the year 1976.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, on June 30 I made a statement that the annual report of the Ontario Telephone Services Commission would be delayed. That report has now been completed and today I have deposited with the Clerk copies of the 1976 annual report of the Ontario Telephone Services Commission and copies are being delivered to the members and the press gallery.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Mr. Villeneuve from the standing social development committee reported the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following amounts to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Education be granted Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1978:

Ministry administration	
program	\$ 15,008,000
Education program	1,952,242,000
Services to education	
program	23,757,000

PRIVATE ACTS

Mr. Breaugh from the standing procedural committee presented the committee's report which was read as follows and adopted.

Your committee has carefully examined the following applications for private Acts and finds the notices, as published in each case, sufficient: City of Hamilton, Township of Tay, City of Burlington, City of London, City of Windsor, County of Middlesex, City of Sudbury, City of Kitchener, Circle R Boys' Ranch, Township of Georgina, City of Ottawa (No. 2).

MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION No. 3

Hon. Mr. McKeough moved resolution No. 3:

That the authority of the Treasurer of Ontario granted on March 31, 1977, to pay the salaries of the civil servants and other necessary payments pending the voting of

supply for the period commencing April 1, 1977, be extended to October 31, 1977, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Mr. Renwick: On that government Notice of Motion No. 3, I just wanted to say that we are in agreement with the date of October 31 which the Treasurer has selected for the period of the necessary interim authority to pay the civil service payments that are indicated in the resolution.

Resolution concurred in.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

WATERLOO ELECTRICAL SERVICE AREAS ACT

Hon. J. A. Taylor moved first reading of Bill 55, An Act to establish Electrical Service Areas in the regional municipality of Waterloo.

Motion agreed to.

PEEL MUNICIPAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC SERVICE ACT

Hon. J. A. Taylor moved first reading of Bill 56, An Act to provide for Municipal Hydro-Electric Service in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Roy moved first reading of Bill 57, An Act to amend The Education Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Roy: I am pleased to see the Premier and the Minister of Education here because the purpose of this bill is to permit the Language of Instruction Commission of Ontario to resolve a dispute relating to languages of instruction arising between a board of education and a French or English language advisory committee in cases where mediation involving a board and the advisory committee has failed. Hopefully, if we'd had this legislation back in 1973, we wouldn't be here on the Essex bill in 1977.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: Just before the orders of the day, in view of the fact that sooner or later this particular session will be coming to an end, we would like to recognize the very great effort of the group of young people, our pages, who have served the latter days of the previous Parliament and have started us off on this new 31st Parliament.

As is the custom, I will read their names into the record for posterity and will send them a copy of Hansard when that is printed.

We have Todd Brian from Windsor, Marie Elizabeth Carr from Orono, Peter Paul Davis from Beaverton, Susan Louise Forestell from Welland, Fiona Jayne Greenaway from Toronto, Christopher John Hillyer from Mississauga, Timothy Gordon Ridley Hudson from Willowdale, Lisa Michele Jaeger from Burford, Nancy Isabel Johnston from Listowel, Brenda Lynn Kenefick from Brampton, Martha Elizabeth Leach from Port Colborne, Barbara Lee from Thunder Bay, Lisa Ann Machek from Oakville, Darren Joseph Martel from Capreol, Richard Brett Martin from Kitchener, Donald Andrew Misner from Dryden, Cecilia Chelvakumari Rajanayagam from Toronto, Andrew George Saranchuk from St. Catharines, Bradley Donald Scott from Exeter, Lyle Ian Sutherland from Belleville and Janice Jane Willock from Rexdale.

I am sure we all appreciate the efforts of these young people. We are very fortunate that these people were available to come back for these two or three weeks.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ESSEX COUNTY FRENCH-LANGUAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved second reading of Bill 3, An Act to require The Essex County Board of Education to provide a French-Language Secondary School.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Minister of Education have an opening statement?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, no I do not have an opening statement in the generally accepted sense of the word. I would like to refer the members to the Hansard of April 22, 1977, in which will be found the opening statement which I gave at the beginning of second reading of the bill when it was introduced in the last Parliament.

I think the reasons for the bill are very clearly stated in the opening statement. I might just add two things.

First, I am just a little disappointed that the Essex County Board of Education, knowing what is going obviously to be the decision of this Legislature, which could have been gleaned from the speeches of the three parties during that debate at that time, back on April 22, that this bill obviously would be passed, has not seen fit to take any action in the interval in any way that I know of to effect either the provision of a French-language school or to begin the building of the school we are going to require them to

build. For that, I am sorry; I had hoped they would take that action. However, I firmly believe once this Legislature has expressed its opinion on this matter, as it will do very shortly, the board will then proceed to build the school on its own.

There are three sections added to this bill that were not in the bill that was presented before. They are subsections 3, 4 and 5 of section 4. They are merely for clarification and effective implementation if it became necessary for the government itself to build the school for the Essex county school board, an eventuality which I hope will not be necessary.

With those few words, I would hope this House can proceed very quickly and unanimously to pass this bill and that the Essex County Board of Education, then knowing the wishes of this House, acting in its role as mediator in a very touchy and a very inflammatory dispute, will then proceed to build the school, as required by this bill.

Mr. S. Smith: I too have already been afforded the opportunity to address remarks to the House when this bill was introduced in April. At that time, I spoke at a moderate length, so I will be very brief today.

I want to say simply, by way of reiteration, although our party will support the building of the school and the passage of the bill, we are disappointed that the government has allowed the situation to deteriorate and to drag on. It has become a situation of confrontation and bitterness which has festered to a point where it has become a national issue instead of a local one.

I say this without trying to be in any way difficult or nasty. I think this does show the fact that this government, unlike its predecessor, has been insufficiently sensitive to the importance of some of these language issues in the fragile national fabric that makes up this country. I am glad that the government is coming to recognize, however belatedly, its very important responsibility and it has my support as it does so.

I want to mention on the related topic that today's announcement by the Attorney General about the extension of certain legal rights, the rights to a trial in French in certain parts of this province, was welcomed by me and by my party. I hope the progress which he is obviously making will be speeded.

[11:45]

I think we all know that what's happening right now in the province of Quebec is that the government there at the moment is acting more and more each day as though they have some kind of authority to separate that

province from Canada. I'm sorry to say that that government is using whatever ammunition they can find to radicalize the good citizens of Quebec.

The ammunition they are able to find, unfortunately, is that the English-speaking population in Quebec does enjoy a higher level of services and a greater number of services and a greater number of rights than the French-speaking population of Ontario. It's very important that we stop giving ammunition to Mr. Levesque and his assistants, that we correct the problem as quickly as possible and do what Mr. Robarts has recommended in his recent address to the conference at York University—get on with the matter of giving full rights and services to our Franco-Ontarians.

I think the necessity for this bill is evident, but it's a sad situation because of the way in which municipal autonomy has been overruled. We feel that we have presented a bill—Mr. Roy having moved it, and I having had the honour to second it—which would solve problems of this kind. Instead of having to single out a place like Essex county and make the people there feel as though the entire province considers them as bigoted or whatever, we could have a rule that would apply with equal force everywhere in Ontario where there was a French-language minority desirous of having education in the French language.

Our bill would say that there would be a language of instruction commission and that commission would, after dispute and after arbitration, have the final say—and its say would be binding, which it is not now. We believe that that would solve this kind of problem and would avoid the bitter divisions which have occurred—pitting Ontarian against Ontarian, language group against language group, in a way that is extremely unfortunate. I can speak from personal experience during the last campaign about the depth of bitterness which has occurred and the dangerous levels to which some of this has risen.

I want to say simply that we believe in this time of restraint that if it were possible for an existing building to be used for the school, provided it meets two criteria, then such should be done. The two criteria would be that the existing building must be of quality equal to those buildings presently enjoyed by the English-speaking population and its location must be of a degree of convenience equal to that presently enjoyed by the English-speaking population—insofar as that's reasonable given the more dispersed nature of the French-speaking population.

We feel if those criteria could be met, then existing buildings ought to be investigated properly. If they cannot be met, we are not going to allow a second-class school that would not be acceptable to the English population to be given to the French-speaking population. So we say we're for an existing building if one exists that meets these criteria. Failing that a new school must be built.

Our local members will have something to say because they feel that their citizens have been wronged by this procedure and by the stalling and the delays and the bitterness and division which has been the fault of this government's procedures over the past seven years, and they will express themselves in their own manner I am sure. Nonetheless, in view of the national urgency and in view of our deep commitment to minority rights, our party will support the bill. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'd just like to remind the members in the House that when one of the members has the floor I hope they will keep their private conversations down to a minimum.

Mr. Bounsall: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Bill 3. My mind, intellect and sense of justice and fairness are totally committed to the establishment of this French-language secondary school for Windsor and Essex county, and I rejoice with the francophones as they near the end of their eighty-year struggle to attain this school. However, I am dismayed that there should ever come before us in this Legislature a bill so tragically entitled, "An Act to require The Essex County Board of Education to provide a French-language Secondary School," a title that might cause even the most casual visitor in the gallery today to think, "What is the history of anger and hatred and heartache and lack of human understanding that would cause a bill of this title to have to be debated here?" I must commend the Minister of Education for his opening address on April 22 last where he outlined so thoroughly and accurately, step by step, the history of this struggle from 1969 to the present, a struggle that so clearly indicates to us why it is so imperative for the members of this Legislature to support the principle of this bill, the provision of a French-language secondary school for the students of Windsor and Essex county.

On that day, April 22, our education critic, the member for Carleton East (Ms. Gigantes), also gave a very excellent and moving address in support of the legislation. She, like the Minister of Education, will not be repeating that address here today.

The wording of the clauses in this bill are so uncompromising, so brutal in fact, but unfortunately so necessary. They leave no doubt as to the intentions of this Legislature, because it says, "On the day this Act comes into force, the board is deemed to have passed a resolution to construct a building . . ." It leaves no doubt that it is to be a new school either, with the words: "Within 30 days . . . the board shall . . . select a site . . . that is not . . . the location of an existing school." The minister has now, so belatedly and lamentedly, I'm sure, on his part, judged the depth of feelings and emotions accurately for it pounds yet further forward, "Where the board fails to take action, the minister may thereupon cause all such things to be done as are necessary to construct the school."

I would have much preferred The Education Act to be amended rather than have this bill now before us, which is so specific and singles out and makes an example of the people and their democratic choices of the school board members in Essex county. I hope and trust that this bill will never have to serve as a model and be used again for future bills for other similar situations in our province.

All that would have been needed was the deletion of the phrase "in the opinion of the board" from section 255, subsection 4, of the French-language instruction portion of The Education Act, and a reasonable number, such as 250, for example, inserted so that the amended section would then read: "Where a board provides or is required to provide for the use of the French-language instruction in one or more classes in a secondary school and the number of French-speaking pupils who elect to be taught in the French language reaches 250, the board shall provide an appropriate unit for a secondary school or, where practicable, a French-language secondary school."

A second clause, possibly, would also need to be inserted for schools like Paincourt or other units that are already in existence that are below the stated figure of 250, but that also could have been simply covered by an additional clause which would read: "On the day upon which this Act comes into force, all French-language schools or units below 250 students shall continue to exist until such time as their operation becomes impracticable and an acceptable alternative is provided for those French-speaking pupils."

My colleague from Carleton East in her so eloquent and moving address of April 22, called this bill a testimony to failure. We are all, in our own small and different ways to blame.

The real culprit throughout has been procrastination and neglect. The Essex County Board of Education, having voted 12-6 in April, 1975, to proceed with the construction of the school, within weeks only of the breaking of the ground reversed its position on February 23, 1976, when a motion to proceed with the construction was defeated as a result of a 9-9 tie vote. Three members had changed their votes and the question is, what happened to change their minds and affect their hearts? It's very clear what happened. In December, 1975, the minister announced the new grant structures as part of the government's austerity program—an austerity program, I might remind the House, which came about as the result of government overspending on its programs in the 1975 election year in an effort to retain its majority position. They changed the grant structures, which reduced the grants for capital construction from 95 per cent to 77 per cent. This meant that the capital costs of construction per average Essex county householder annually would increase for the construction of this school from 35 cents a year to \$1.65 per year over the next 20 years. It is a paltry sum, the price of two packs of cigarettes a year but unfortunately, enough of an increase to cause a group called the Essex County Ratepayers' Association to oppose vehemently the construction of this school on the basis of the increased taxes.

I asked the Minister of Education, in March, 1976, to restore that grant to the 95 per cent level for the purpose of this school only in order to avoid the continuing and building controversy and bitterness. The minister refused. If he had done so then, certainly one, if not two and possibly all three, of the members of the board who had changed their votes would have changed their votes back again and the school would have been ready for occupancy this September.

The minister's restoration of the grant to the 95 per cent level in March, 1977, came a year too late. He and his cabinet colleagues could have avoided all of this situation which arose over the past year and a half in Essex county by the restoration of that grant to 95 per cent, when it became obvious to the local members, and they told him—at least for my part I did—of the ensuing bitterness and problems which would arise. I perhaps may be faulted for not pressing the minister harder, more often and more publicly, but he must bear that

major responsibility for that political ineptitude at that time.

Subsequent to that, the minister did in fact try his best. He tried to bring reason with a mediator in May, 1976, with the appointment of Robert A. McLeod, the retired former director of education for the Niagara South Board of Education, who tendered an excellent, balanced report in which he recommended: "That school facilities be constructed to provide French-language programs for students as is done for English-language students; that the principal and staff of French-language facilities be bilingual with the language of administration and communication to be French; that options in English, as may be desired by the French-language students, be provided; that the facilities be constructed and operated under existing policies of the board as in effect for English-language schools; and that necessary supervision for French-language programs be arranged for with the Ministry of Education on the basis that there be no local charge for the service."

[12:00]

Those were the points in his report, but in fact the really interesting part of his report comes later. He concluded with the most interesting, pertinent and wise commentary.

He commented, and I quote: "The place for both English and French to learn the second language of their country is in the school. It is now perfectly clear that it cannot be done efficiently anywhere else. The country's experience in trying to do so outside the regular school system has proven to be enormously costly to the taxpayers, and the results are not satisfactory. If this board in its wisdom sees fit to approve the French-language secondary facilities as outlined, it will be evidence of a commitment to French-language education for both English and French in a setting where it will be most effective.

"It is recognized that due to the length of time the school has been under consideration, approximately eight years, together with the controversial issues throughout the country involving bilingualism, the community to some degree at least has become polarized on the issue. As evidence of that situation is the recent involvement of municipal officials in the matter, the rise of the ratepayers' association and a French-language school action committee. It is time the issue is settled before irreparable damage is done to the school system and to the community.

"The provision of facilities for the minority French-language students, as presently enjoyed by the English-language students, hopefully will trigger all the fair-minded people of Essex to express their support for the board in its difficult position. In addition, it will stand out as an example to our country that anglophones and francophones can amicably work out solutions to their problems. Such an example will surely serve the real interest of all Canadians at this particular point in time. Failure to do so could be a damaging blow to our future."

A very prophetic and futuristic looking report, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately this report wasn't released until February, 1977, and I suspect that it was ready before the school board elections took place in December, 1976. If it was, that again was a mistake in political judgement by the minister in not seeing that it should have been released earlier, for the school became the main, if not the only issue, in the school board election of December, 1976—with the minister and his mediator standing by and not helping to influence that decision by the release of the McLeod report. As a result of those elections, school board candidates defeated incumbents solely on their support of the construction of the French-language school and subsequently the Essex County Board of Education in March, 1977, voted 12-5 against the McLeod report and against the construction of this school.

Needless to say, having supported the establishment of this school throughout, consistently and without any modification of my support, I have encountered not a little criticism for my very public stance. I want to indicate why I support it and how I came to that position. I have taken the trouble and the time to read those portions of the Confederation debates of 1865 that dealt with education—particularly the speeches of Attorney General West—John A. Macdonald, from Kingston; Attorney General East—George Cartier, from Montreal East; the Hon. J. S. Sanborn, from Wellington; the Hon. D'Arcy McGee, Minister of Agriculture, from Montreal West; the Hon. A. A. Dorion, from Hochelaga; and the Hon. George Brown, president of that council, from South Oxford.

In addition to that, a selection edited by P. B. Waite entitled, *The Confederation Debates in the Province of Canada, 1865*, published by the Carleton Library and referred to me by the hon. member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway)—a reference that I pay him tribute for. It got me into reading not only that document, but the original documents in the original debates.

In those speeches I learned—although it was not explicitly stated, but certainly implied and assumed—that both English and French language groups were accorded by Confederation the right of education in their own language wherever they may live. To illustrate the flavour, Mr. Speaker, I am going to quote very briefly from the speech of the Hon. John Rose, Montreal Centre:

"Now we, the English Protestant minority of Lower Canada, cannot forget that whatever right of separate education we have was accorded to us in the most unrestricted way before the proposed union of our provinces when we were in a minority position and entirely in the hands of the French population. We cannot forget that in no way was there any attempt to prevent us from educating our children in the manner we saw fit and deemed best, and I would be untrue to what is just if I forgot to state that the distribution of state funds for educational purposes was made in such a way as to have no cause for complaint on the part of the English-speaking minority in Lower Canada. I believe we have always had our fair share of the public grants, insofar as the French element could control them, and not only the liberty, but every facility for the establishment of separate, dissentient schools."

I diverge to say that was the term applied to any school other than one considered at the time to be the main school in the two provinces—"dissentient schools." I return to the address of Mr. Rose:

"A single person has the right, under the law, of establishing a dissentient school and obtaining a fair share of the educational grant, if he can gather together 15 students who desire instruction in it. Now, we cannot forget that in the past this liberality has been shown to us, and that whatever we desired of the French majority in respect to education, they were, if it was at all reasonable, willing to concede. We have, thus, in this also, the guarantee of the past, that nothing will be done in the future unduly to interfere with our rights and interests as regards education, and I believe that everything we desire will be as freely given by the local legislatures as it was before the union of the Canadas."

"Hear, hear" is recorded by Hansard at that time. Immediately there was an interjection at that point which further clarified the intent, in 1865, of the gentlemen gathered together to create Canada.

It was an interjected question by the Hon. L. H. Holton from Chateauguay, and the question was, "Dissentient on the account of language?"

Rose replied, "The question relates to all dissentient schools from whatever cause that may lead them to dissent."

Again cries of "Hear, hear" were recorded, indicating that in 1865 it was very clear that whenever 15 students could be gathered together and wished to receive instruction in their language, either French or English, wherever they may be, that was a right that was going to be granted. And, in fact, it was a right.

Before I get into Quebec, I just might say that the minister in his remarks of April 22 quoted from an even earlier letter written by the father of our educational system, Dr. Egerton Ryerson, who in 1857 wrote to the trustees of Charlottenburgh township in Ontario. He says in that letter: "I have the honour to state in reply to your letter of the 16th that as French is the recognized language of the country, as well as English, it is quite proper and lawful for the trustees to allow both languages to be taught in their schools to children whose parents may desire them to learn both." Quite clearly in Ontario, we have a tradition dating back to 1857 by Dr. Ryerson himself indicating that both languages were to be taught when requested and that it was right and proper for parents to demand that instruction for their children if they so desired it. It is a real tragedy that in Ontario we've procrastinated for 110 years in formulizing that policy in legislation and in action.

Quebec over the years, with its 183 English-language secondary schools, has lived up to the spirit of Confederation much more than we have in Ontario with our now only 24 French-language schools. This basic right, however, has been belatedly but clearly recognized in Ontario for 10 years now, supported by all political parties and legitimized in legislation since 1968. Therefore, in arriving at my support for the building and construction of that French school in Essex county, it is clear to me, and the basis of my support is, that it is a legitimate right of Franco-Ontarians in Windsor and Essex county to receive an education in their own language and, where there are sufficient numbers of students, as there is clearly in our area, those legitimate minority rights must be recognized and a school provided for them.

The previous speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, made reference to an area that interests me as it pertains to the current situation with respect to Canadian unity in Canada. I agree with him that we in Ontario as one of the two major founding provinces of Canada must take a leadership role in

maintaining our national unity. We must not provide any excuse or opportunity to Premier Levesque to say to the people of Quebec as they approach a referendum that francophones are not welcome in Ontario or that their basic language rights are not respected and not granted. If we do not construct this school for the francophone student population in Essex county, it affords Mr. Levesque that opening and that opportunity to address in exactly those terms the people of Quebec with respect to francophone rights in other parts of Canada.

I might just say, however—and I won't dwell on it—that English-language rights in the province of Quebec are still very much further ahead than French-language rights in the province of Ontario, including the changes that are proposed to be made in their education Act. Although the education Act that's now proposed would appear to limit the right of free choice of any parent as to which of the two language systems they would send their children now in the province of Quebec, it in no way decreases our obligation in Ontario to provide that free choice to every resident of Ontario to educate his children in whatever language, French or English, he deems fit and proper to so do.

[12:15]

One of the major concerns I ran into, both before the election and of course during it, in spades, was expressed by the people of Windsor as to the numbers of pupils in Essex county who may, in fact, attend this school. They said there may not be enough students for a school of 750 and that the school population would dwindle, thereby leaving us with a white elephant in Essex county.

I want to reply to those people very clearly, as I did and spent so much time doing in that six-week campaign. A joint survey was conducted by the Windsor Board of Education and the Essex County Board of Education in the fall of 1973. That survey was very carefully prepared—so carefully prepared and gone over that when it was finally finished and approved by both boards it was even called a survey instrument.

What did they do with this survey? Information meetings were held in all of the French-language elementary schools in Windsor and the county and in the High School of Commerce to explain the purpose of the survey, and the hope for construction of the French-language high school. The survey was given out with self-addressed envelopes to the appropriate board, and two other things took place: It was assumed and stated that the county would pay transporta-

tion costs for all of the county students to that school, but it was made very clear to the Windsor parents that they would probably have to pay their own transportation costs.

There were no hidden arguments, no facts kept from the parents of students in French-language elementary schools in either board. As a result, a very realistic enrolment of 837 students was indicated for the school by its fourth year of operation. It was probably a conservative estimate as well, since a later study, in February 1975, by the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario and by ministry officials projected an enrolment of 1,008 by the third year of operation.

In February 1976, at the time the 9-9 vote tie resulted, Mrs. Jean Ashton, chairman of the Essex County Board of Education, issued a press statement vouching for the complete accuracy of those enrolment figures, as well as detailing the minimal cost to the taxpayer. The Windsor Board of Education, under the chairmanship of Neil Libby, had already signed a 10-year agreement with the Essex County Board of Education to pay for a minimum of 125 students.

The enrolment is assured beyond any doubt. There are at present four French-language elementary schools in Windsor and seven in the county, graduating an average of 30 students per year for a total of 330 students exiting from grade 8 from those schools. Even if only 50 per cent of those graduating students end up in that high school, a school of this size would be justified.

Again, one of their concerns is that once established the numbers may well decrease. In virtually every other recently-established French secondary school in Ontario, enrolments have been maintained or have gone steadily up. I am just going to read these briefly:

In Kapuskasing, the school called Cité des Jeunes; in 1972 the enrolment was 873; it is now 908, at the end of 1976. I don't have the 1977 figures—I wish I had. In the Timmins board, Ecole Theriault—the 1972 enrolment 1,604, the 1976 enrolment 1,660, an increase. In the Timiskaming board, Ecole Sainte-Marie in New Liskeard, 708 in 1972, 750 in 1976. In Sudbury there are four schools — Franco-Jeunesse, Hanmer, Macdonald-Cartier and Rayside in Azilda; the 1972 enrolment in the four schools, 3,969; the 1976, 4,019.

In the Nipissing board, two schools—Algonquin in North Bay and Franco Cité in Sturgeon Falls—a combined student population in those two schools from 1972 to 1976 showing only a 40 student decrease. In both

of those schools the 1972 enrolment was above what the school boards in both schools liked to consider the optimum enrolment. Even with 40 students less, enrolment in the combined schools still is not down to what the school board considers to be the optimum occupancy rate for those two schools. No cause for concern.

In Carleton—the school Garneau in Orléans: 1972 enrolment, 684, the 1976 enrolment 1,162. Fantastic increase. In Ottawa, six schools—André Laurendeau in Vanier, Belcourt, Cartier, Champlain, Charlebois and De La Salle; combined enrolment of 6,646 in 1972 and 6,614 in 1976, with that total enrolment virtually a steady state situation. In Prescott and Russell board, there are three schools—Casselman-Cambridge in Casselman, Embrun in Embrun and Rockland—1,317 in 1972 and 1,233 in 1976, a slight decrease.

Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry, La Citadelle in Cornwall—formerly the E. S. St. Laurent, French-English bilingual school—758 enrolment in 1972, 995 in 1976. In North York, Etienne Brulé; 494 in 1972, 566 in 1976. In Hamilton, Georges Vanier, established since 1972, has an enrolment of close to 300.

The Niagara south board, Confederation in Welland; 874 in 1972 has decreased to 753 in 1976. I hear from the member for Welland that there has been an increase in this year 1977 from the 753. In the county of Kent, Paincourt school in Paincourt, established many years ago, has a steady student population of 96 in 1972, 96 in 1976.

(The total for the 1972 enrolments was 20,368, and for 1976, 21,400—no decrease in our French student populations, but rather an increase right across Ontario.

I want to add a very personal note, Mr. Speaker, at this time. The three children which I have fathered have all attended Ecole Lucien Beaudoin, a French-language elementary school, since kindergarten. In 1970 when Christine, the oldest of my children entered, only two other children in her classroom came from anglophone families. In 1975 when my youngest, Jimmy, entered, fully one-third of the children in his class were from anglophone families or fully assimilated francophone English-speaking families.

The question one might ask is—why this increase? One reason is the example in the community of older children, such as my 12-year-old daughter Christine, who appear intelligent and who have obviously had a sound basic education, but who, just as obviously, are fluently bilingual and fully literate in both languages, consistent with their attained age and their year of school. Francophone

parents, of course, desire their children to attend a French-language school for reasons that are more cultural, for the retention of their heritage and their way of life.

Anglophones, however, need proof that a French education is beneficial and that the graduates are bilingual. It's graduates like Christine and graduates of that school who are older, who are bilingual and have suffered no decrease in their education, who point out to anglophones that it can be done. That is what has caused the increasing number of anglophone families in the community to send their children to that and other French-language schools in the area.

In a few years it will be much more evident than it is now in our country that the concept of anglophone kids attending a French-language school is the best means of becoming bilingual; that concept will sell itself. At that point we will have the graduates from the proposed secondary school. What a pity and what an injustice that we haven't already seen six years of graduates already from that French-language secondary school; what a greater pity and a vaster neglect that the Tories, who have governed Ontario for far too long now, didn't move to have French-language elementary and secondary schools fully in place in the public system 20 and 30 years ago.

We had to wait until just last April to have placed before us a document entitled, *The Teaching and Learning of French as a Secondary Language Program*. In Windsor and Essex county all of the French-language elementary schools are in the separate board and this government has done little to encourage, until April last, the real teaching of French and the extension of that into our systems across Ontario, particularly in most of the public schools where it's so lacking.

One of the concerns I ran into, both before this election campaign and throughout it, were parents who said, "Well, we're not sure whether we support the French-language secondary school, but what really irritates us is that French is not given in our schools from kindergarten on." And when you inquired what kind of French-language instruction they would like to have, they were talking in terms of an immersion program. There's a great feeling among the majority of parents in the city of Windsor to have their students in an English-French immersion program in their schools, starting from kindergarten on. That is a very real feeling and I want the minister and the ministry officials to know that; that is the program that we should be moving to just as quickly as we can. Those parents who have older children regret that the program wasn't there and in place for

them while they were in their lower grades of school and preferably from kindergarten on. [12:30]

A real solution to the French-language question is, of course, to teach French to children at this early age. If there ever was a time to teach a second language, free from all prejudices, anxieties, obstacles and inhibitions that we adults all share, it is in early childhood. Kids love another language. I've seen my three kids go in and they simply have a real joy, at age five, age six, age seven and thereafter, in learning the new words, having two words for each object which they encounter, and at seeing both languages develop as they talk with us and with other children in school and with their brothers and sisters in my home. They pick it up so spontaneously, so quickly, so unaffectedly, and we grown-ups learn it so slowly, we resist it so fiercely and use it so infrequently. We must get a valid program into our school system.

The minister also made one other mistake in judgement throughout this entire establishment of a French-language secondary school in Windsor, but one I think we would all have made, trusting as he did—the mistake was in trusting—the good faith of people, particularly the elected school board members of Essex county. I refer to the portion of the minister's February 13, 1976, letter to the Essex board where, as part of the conditions surrounding the grants for the French school, he allocated a further half-million dollars to accommodate the immediate capital needs for projects at Belle River High School, Kingsville High School and Essex District High School, and even went further to say that if the need for local improvements could be substantiated, such expenditure would be considered part of the cost of that combined project for grant purposes.

This half-million dollars was, of course, widely interpreted to be a conditional grant—yet the half-million dollars was entirely used and a French school not built. That was a mistake in judgement by the minister, but in this case perhaps one, used to dealing with people who deal in good faith, may not have been able to predict beforehand.

There are a few other failures that give rise to this French feeling in Windsor and Essex county and the bitterness caused by this whole issue. One of them, I may say, is the federal government, because of which virtually every immigrant who arrived in this country over the last 25 years has no understanding whatsoever of our constitution of Canada that indicates there are both French

and English and their respective rights to education and to language, even language, in this country. Their initial reaction is, "I'm Italian," "I'm Greek," or "I'm Polish," and then "Why do the French have a particular right in this country?"

When they immigrated and when they took out their citizenship, there was no attempt made by the federal government in any way, shape or form—and I've asked each one of them, "What happened when you took out your citizenship? What did you have to read? What were you asked?"—no attempt at all by the federal government with those immigrants to indicate to them the history of this country as it relates to the French-English question. It's a real failure on the part of our federal government with respect to the education of those immigrants when they arrived or took out their citizenship in this country.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might return to the principle of this bill. He's talking about federal matters at this point.

Mr. Swart: He's right on.

Mr. Bounsall: I'm right on. I'm indicating that this bill is a bill that is necessary because of a particular situation in Essex county and the bitterness, Mr. Speaker, and I'm indicating what has given rise to the bitterness, which is the lack of understanding at virtually every level, and this is one of the grossest examples of what should have been done but wasn't done over the years. The federal government should remedy it.

Mr. Kerrio: You were right on, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bounsall: One of the other points which is of rather more than minor irritation in Essex county, which the federal government should pay some attention to, is the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation French station. They almost consistently refuse to hire anybody in that station from Windsor and Essex county, who speak the Windsor-Essex county patois, of course. They bring down employees for that radio station from, basically, the province of Quebec who continually deride the existing French-language people there for their particular accent.

I say to the CBC they had better change their policies. They had better open up their eyes and start hiring people from the area who at least will not deride the particular accent which is spoken down there.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. I fail to see how your comments concerning CBC hiring practices in Windsor relate to the

principle of this bill. Would you kindly return to the principle of the bill?

Mr. Bounsall: That's not surprising, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Reid: It's the kind of confusion that leads to the problem.

Mr. Bounsall: Let me say, as I said on the other point, that I'm indicating quite clearly why the bitterness is there and why this board did not pass that school and why we have to have this bill before us.

Let me continue to address myself to the many concerns I've heard from individuals in the anglophone community. One of the questions that one hears often from school board members or the ratepayers' association is the question of local autonomy that's breached by this bill. Let us not forget that the autonomy which school boards have is granted by this Legislature. The autonomy can be increased or decreased by this Legislature.

It is indeed a sad day that the autonomy granted and exercised so responsibly by all must in the case of this Essex County Board of Education and in this one very small area be taken back by us. We do not do this lightly. We do it with a heavy heart. But we do it with a defensible position that in a civilized, democratic society the majority must respect the legitimate rights of a minority. I hope no member of this House feels that in a case of legitimate minority right an autonomy granted by this Legislature should not prevail.

In regard to section 4 of the bill, I say to the members of the Essex county school board, those members who are expressing their anger and very deep emotion over the autonomy issue: "Do not cause the minister to take away further autonomy through the exercise of section 4 of this bill and cause the Minister of Education to have to build this particular school."

Of the other concerns often expressed to me by the anglophone community over this school, one is that the graduates of this school will get all the top federal government positions that are going because they'll clearly be the only people in our society, at least from the province of Ontario, who are bilingual. That is very true. I've encouraged parents who have children of whatever age in elementary school to send their children to Alliance française courses or to whatever courses they can take in order that before they get out of elementary school they might be able to switch to the French-language school in the elementary system but certainly to get themselves into

a position if the children are willing to enter that French-language secondary school, to take advantage of what I think is a true statement, the increased opportunity for job positions with the federal government.

I really don't have very much to say to those persons who approach me on this topic and say: "Quebec wants to separate and I don't think we should impede the separation of Quebec. If they choose by their decision to separate, I think we should let them go." I have nothing to say to these people who start with that premise and then conclude, when I say we don't want to let them go, "I think we should join the United States. I think the province of Ontario should join the United States and we'll extend our OHIP system right across the United States."

Mr. Kerrio: What has that got to do with the bill?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Will the hon. member return to the principle of the bill?

Mr. Swart: He is right on.

Mr. Bounsall: I am. I am right on, Mr. Speaker. I could argue that point out with the Speaker again if he wishes.

Interjections.

Mr. Bounsall: To those persons who express that concern, where they clearly don't grasp the whole issue of minority rights in French-language education that was established at Confederation, it obviously has no relevance to them whatsoever. With them I can just say, "You are more American than Canadian. Best of luck in joining the States and establishing the OHIP system across the United States." I don't usually even continue on and argue the problems with the OHIP system which we have. There is nothing much one can say.

Anglophones have said to me as well, with respect to this bill, Mr. Speaker, "My children shall derive no benefit from this school. Why should I support it? Why should I help pay for it?" To those anglophones, I ask them a question in return. "Have you ever objected to the provision of other special education facilities such as schools for the retarded—Churchwood, for example, in Windsor? Thanks to providence, your children also didn't make use of these."

From others I have heard that French "is being forced down our throats." It should be obvious, but let me reassure anglophones in Essex county who still feel that way that this bill forces absolutely no one to learn French. It forces no one to go to a French school. It is clearly a matter of parental and children's choice whether the children

attend the French school and become bilingual. What this bill simply does is to make that choice available at the secondary level and makes it available in the way most assured of producing a truly bilingual student at the end of high school.

It has been said to me that the school would have been built some years ago if the proposed initial design had not included an auditorium. Yes, the original design did, but why should the francophones not try for the best? And if it is turned down, well they tried. *C'est la vie*. In fact, provincial grant moneys for an auditorium were completely removed and the auditorium was dropped from the plans. It was never discussed again, not even behind the scenes. So those who bring that point forward simply do not know the situation.

Some comments have been made about the French-language advisory committee turning down offers made in good faith by the Windsor board to provide a school. Those who say that simply have heard only half a story. It's true that at a joint meeting of the two boards in 1974—and therefore an informal meeting—Neil Libby, the then chairman of the Windsor board, offered that a school in Windsor be established for use by September 1974, and that the ministry be consulted as soon as possible re a long-range plan for the construction of a new building.

The High School of Commerce was the school in mind, but several things, it immediately became evident, were wrong with that proposal. It contained virtually no technical facilities and the renovations to include such facilities would have required \$2.5 million to \$3 million, almost the price of a new school at that point. Spending that kind of sum on renovations, it would then become "the" school and not an interim measure. It would not be centrally located, as all the studies indicated it should be for the francophone population, and it would involve much more lengthy and more costly driving miles for transportation.

Monarch High School was mentioned at a Windsor board meeting but no formal offer was ever made because parents of Monarch High School objected immediately and strenuously. Belle River High School, I am told, was considered for expansion by the building of a wing, it being a school which is bilingual in the county, but that would have wiped out the outdoor athletic facilities entirely for both French and English, and therefore was not practical. A new shared school at St. Clair Beach with two

wings and a shared gymnasium, cafeteria and lab facilities was considered and touted, but the problem there was that there are no new English-language classroom facilities required. Thus, no approval would ever be forthcoming, at least in the present state, for additional English-language classroom facilities in any part of the county.

[12:45]

More recently, we have heard of the use of the University of Windsor's faculty of education building, a building still owned by the ministry. I want to say what I said during the campaign when I was asked about that at the doors of that university. I said I had no objection, if the building could be used. But there are three main disadvantages to the use of that building. The Windsor Board of Education, that facility being in Windsor, would have to agree to administer the school. And with one quarter or less of the students of that school being from Windsor, and three quarters from the county, it has never been thought reasonable by the Windsor Board of Education to administer the French-language school for the area. They have never considered it and still, from my informal conversations with them, board members do not deem it reasonable that they should administer the French school.

But if they said, "Yes, we will do it," you would then have the Ministry of Colleges and Universities saying that classroom and office space would need to be built at the University of Windsor campus to replace it; the ministry would have to be agreeable to that. But that is probably the least of the problems in connection with that particular facility. I think the Ministry of Colleges and Universities would, in fact, do that, if the Windsor board agreed to build that additional classroom and office space back down on campus, where it is at present six miles away and not a very happy situation for the university.

But the real problem is still the Essex County Board of Education, which, if those two conditions were met, would still have to say, "We will buy from the Windsor Board of Education, in an agreement such as the Windsor board has already signed, a minimum guarantee to purchase a minimum number of spaces in that school for whatever number of pupils want to go." The problem with the Essex County Board of Education is that ever since its formation it has consistently refused to buy any facility or space from the Windsor Board of Education, for

any reason. And on this issue, I would suspect, they certainly would not.

I may be wrong. But they went to great lengths to avoid buying 400 spaces at Vincent Massey High School on the far west side of the Windsor board and busing students an average of only four miles from the La Salle area to that school. They went to great lengths to avoid that and caused a double teaming of classrooms at Amherst High for some three or four years, to the great dismay of teachers, pupils, and everybody else; and they bused the students an average of eight miles to get to that school, all to avoid, buying facilities and space from the Windsor board. So, on this issue I can see, in the final analysis, a great problem there.

If those three things can be worked out, there is no problem. In addition, that facility has an auditorium which perhaps would be of some advantage to the francophone community. But it is well beyond the point, I think, where this can be considered. If that offer had been brought up five years ago, it may have been welcomed. But the situation has gone too far.

The building of a new school, as this bill proposes, in an appropriate location, has become a symbol in the francophone community, a symbol much larger than just a place to conduct classes in French. It has become a symbol of the preservation of one of our two founding cultures. Of course, we have managed in Ontario to virtually destroy the Indian and Eskimo cultures, and the Franco-Ontarians fear for their cultural future. It is a symbol as well of our majority anglophone toleration of minority groups.

This next point, I have understood the least, and found the most difficult to grasp; but I have arrived at the belief and understanding that the francophones in Ontario, and in our area, have a right to their own school in their own location, just as we anglophones have always had provided to us. To be told where the location should be, if it is not acceptable to the francophone population, is simply not an acceptable solution or situation.

I say to the francophones, as we are about to pass this bill, by this bill you have not only won the battle, you have won the eight-year war. The true measure of a victor is how you act toward the vanquished. The time is near at hand, and those are the terms in which it's stated down there, I might say to the member for Ottawa East, when you can rejoice quietly—

Mr. Roy: It is not.

Mr. Bounsall: —when you do not rub it into the anglophones, when you toss no victorious looks and you bury any bitterness you have. To the members of the Essex county school board and the people of Essex, there is great honour in a defeat gracefully accepted. I ask the anglophones who are still upset about the building of this school not to subject themselves to any prolonged last-ditch legal moppings-up.

Some say why is there the need at all for a French-language school? Why not a bilingual school? What's wrong with that? As Professor Tom Symons, commissioner of the Commission on French-Language Secondary Schools has pointed out, there is really no such entity as a bilingual school. There are English-language schools that teach some courses in French and there are French-language schools that teach some courses in English.

We have to ask ourselves, therefore, how do we achieve in Essex county a bilingual Canadian? The only real chance for a student immersed and surrounded as we are in the English language to become bilingual in Essex county, in my opinion, is to attend a French-language school, where the administration is in French, the language of communication is in French and all activities are in French. The problem in Essex county is to retain and to speak enough French because English is so readily available.

There will, of course, be English taught as a language in that French school. The Education Act states — where 20 students or more request that a given course be taught in English there is a clear legislative direction under section 2(66) of the Act that that course or those courses be taught in English. I understand from the French-language advisory committee that there will be no problem locally in that French school for those options to be taught in English as desired by French-language students. They will be provided if the request is there.

Mr. Symons went on further in this report and said in a comment about bilingual schools that most francophone students in Ontario are usually bilingual already because of circumstances outside the classroom,

whereas most anglophone students are not. What nearly always happens in a so-called mixed school or bilingual school is that the language of communication and administration, and thus the overall atmosphere, is English. Much more often than not, therefore, the mixed or so-called bilingual school is a one-way street to assimilation for the French-speaking student.

I will end on a personal note. When the school opens in the fall of 1978, among those in that entering class, God willing, will be my daughter Christine. If that school had not been built, we certainly would have made other arrangements for her continued French-language education at whatever cost to us. All members of this Parliament involved in this bill should be invited to the official opening of this school, including the very few, and I hope none by the time this debate is concluded—who have not yet found it in their hearts or consciences to support the building of this school.

I hope all members will come. I want to say one more thing. I will be there on the day the school opens, quietly and unobtrusively hidden in the background because I want to observe the pride, the exultation, the joie de vivre with which those students enter this school for the first time, the school that they have heard about and that would be provided since the days they were in kindergarten, nine long years ago. It is a unique scene that will not often be repeated in Ontario, and would that all our students across this land entered their schools with the same feeling that this group of francophone students will have on that opening day.

On motion by Mr. Sterling, the debate was adjourned.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House I would like to table the answer to questions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix, page 615.)

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the House adjourned at 1 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
12	458	2	34	House in committee on Bill 15, An Act to amend The Corporations Tax Act.
12	461	2	32	Lines 32 and 33 should be transposed to become lines 41 and 42.

APPENDIX
(See page 614)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

4. **Mr. Cunningham**—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation an itemized list of all sales and dollar value of sales of the UTDC to date, and table such information in the House. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow):

Two hundred light rail vehicles, Toronto Transit Commission—\$72,793,000; Ontario Northland Railway purchase; rehabilitate, modify, deliver and lease four intercity passenger trains—\$5,000,000; sale of and license of small buses and wheelchair lifts—\$1,729,110; revenue from seat development program with Otaco Limited—\$6,200; revenue from consulting engineering contracts; 1975, 1976, and 1977—\$223,559; revenue from consulting planning contracts; 1975, 1976, and 1977—\$344,641; sale of spare parts related to TEE trains—\$389,000. Total—\$80,485,510.

Not included in the above is the loan of \$55.5 million from Ministry of Transportation and Communications on the ICTS program.

5. **Mr. Cunningham**—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation estimates of noise level from ICTS vehicles at various distances in comparison with CLRV or any advance light rail system, eg. Boeing Vertol, and table such information in the House. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow):

TRANSIT SYSTEM NOISE IMPACT

Vehicle status during measurement: ICTS—All possible loading, movement and train configuration conditions; CLRV—40 mph on paved, tangent ground track; Boeing LRV—40 mph.

Measurement point: Distance from guideway 50 feet in each instance.

Noise level (dBA): ICTS, 65-68; CLRV, 75; Boeing LRV, 80.

The ICTS information is contained in the publication ICTS Development Program: Report on Phases 1 and 2 and Recommendations for Phase 3, tabled on June 11, 1976. The reasons for requiring and methods of obtaining the extremely low noise impact shown in this table, including the use of steerable axle trucks, resilient steel wheels, guideway/vehicle integration, continuous welded track, wheel and rail grinding, and non-driven wheels are explained in this publication.

The estimated CLRV noise impact is quoted from the vehicle specification documents: Specification Number CLRV-4-IC For Light Rail Vehicle, "C" Revision, 1 August 1975. The specification forms part of the contractual agreement between UTDC and its various vehicle and equipment suppliers and between UTDC and the Toronto Transit Commission.

The Boeing LRV data has been extracted from their promotional brochure Light Rail Vehicle, June 1975.

6. **Mr. Cunningham**—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation estimates of power consumption by ICTS vehicles in normal operation as compared with power consumption of a PCC-TTC vehicle and the CLRV and table such information in the House. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow):

	Specific Energy Consumption	Source of Data
Subway	5.0 KW hr/Veh. mile	TTC — 490 vehicles measured
Streetcar	5.2 KW hr/Veh. mile	TTC — 338 vehicles measured
Light Rail Vehicle	3.75 KW hr/Veh. mile	Garrett Mfg Co. & UTDC — Tests & calculations
Intermediate capacity transit vehicle	3.5 KW hr/Veh. mile	Spar & UTDC — Tests & calculations
Trolley coach	4.0 KW hr/Veh. mile	TTC — 151 vehicles measured
Diesel bus	5.5 miles per gallon	TTC — 1,217 vehicles measured
Gas automobile	15.0 miles per gallon	G.M. — Fleet average

The preceding table indicates the power consumption measured or estimated for various transit vehicles and the private automobile. The PCC-TTC vehicle is represented by the "Streetcar" category in the table, and the CLRV by the "Light Rail Vehicle" category. This chart appears as Table B3-1 in Moving Into An Energy Efficient Society, a submission by UTDC to the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning presented in November 1976.

7. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation operating costs estimates of ICTS operating commercially with and without automation, and table such information in the House. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow):

The report ICTS Development Program and Report on Phases 1 and 2 and Recommendations for Phase 3 indicates that the saving resulting from automation is 40 per cent of total operating cost. Present estimates indicate that the annual cost of operating one mile of ICTS in a typical urban application carrying 15,000 people per hour per day would be: With automation, \$775,000; without automation, \$1,260,000; estimated saving, 38.5 per cent.

8. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation an itemized breakdown of the budget for the three year ICTS and LRV testing program and the means by which this venture is being funded, and table such information in the House. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow):

The itemized breakdown of costs for the three-year ICTS development program is provided in the following tables: A. breakdown of the \$55.5 million; B. breakdown of UTDC budget by major work element; C. breakdown of Canadair and subcontractors budget by major work element.

The funding for the ICTS program is provided under a loan agreement dated February 17, 1977, between the Ontario government and UTDC.

UTDC has not completed planning for development and test programs for the LRV beyond the contract for supply of vehicles to the TTC. Sources of funding for such continued development programs have not been determined.

TABLE A

Breakdown of the \$55.5 million phase 3 ICTS program budget

Canadair contract	\$37,746,200
UTDC budget	6,850,700
Contingency	4,503,100
Inflation allowance	6,400,000
Total	<u>\$55,500,000</u>

TABLE B

ICTS PHASE 3
UTDC PROGRAM BUDGET

ELEMENT	(000's Omitted)
Program Management	359.4
Management Benefits	43.1
Engineering—Total	930.6
Vehicle	187.0
Power and Distribution	18.0
Command, Control, Comm.	205.0
Infrastructure	74.4
System Engineering	204.6
Integration and Test	74.3
Management	167.3
Operations—Core	377.1
Finance	122.6
Product Marketing	173.3
Corporate Marketing	25.9
Planning (Transportation)	241.4
Sub-total Labour	<u>2,273.4</u>
Promotion	124.0
Miscellaneous	25.3
Communications	70.3
Travel and Living	333.8
Equipment Rental	35.0
Consultants—to UTDC	685.0
Overhead	<u>3,303.9</u>
Sub-total Other	4,161.9
Total	<u>\$6,850.7</u>

TABLE C

ICTS PHASE 3

WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE—CANADAIR

ELEMENT	000's
Vehicle	9,375.
Guideway	2,987.
Power and Distribution	1,301.
Command, Control and Communications	3,382.
Systems Engineering	5,476.

Integration and Test	5,838.
Liaison Engineering	5,932.
	<u>34,291.0</u>
Fee	2,505.5
Phase 3 Start-up (June, July, August, 1976)	949.7
Total	<u>\$37,746.2</u>

UTDC vehicle test programs: As presently planned, there will be three distinct test programs carried out at the Transit Development Centre (TDC), Kingston, in the next three years. Two are connected with the Canadian Light Rail Vehicle (CLRV) and one with the Articulated Light Rail Vehicle (ALRV). 1. CLRV—qualification of the Canadian manufacturer; 2. CLRV—development of vehicle performance and capability; 3. ALRV—prototype testing and demonstration.

1. Qualification of the Canadian supplier—CLRV: Certain tests will be required to ensure that the manufacturing techniques have not altered the vehicle characteristics and performance. These will include: (a) truck tests; (b) vehicle dynamic tests for ride comfort; (c) energy consumption tests; (d) noise abatement tests.

2. Development of vehicle performance—CLRV: Development engineering work will be conducted to improve and extend the vehicle (CLRV) capabilities and the major parameters will be checked and evaluated through a test program at the TDC. These development aspects will cover (a) vehicle control systems; (b) vehicle information systems; (c) ride performance; (d) energy use reduction.

3. Prototype testing—ALVR: These vehicles will be subjected to a series of tests at the TDC to show conformance with specification requirements. Following these, development tests will be conducted to assist in improving the performance. Tests will include: (a) dynamic tests for the articulated truck; (b) speed and route profile tests; (c) ride performance; (d) energy consumption; (e) noise measurement.

Note—CLRV development and compliance testing: The CLRV testing just described extends beyond that in the basic contract. That contract provides for the confirmation that all design parameters have been met through the conduct of a test program on the first several prototype vehicles. This testing is about to commence in existing test facilities at Vienna and Orbe Chavornay.

9. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation capital cost estimates for one mile of ICTS operating commercially at grade, below grade and elevated, broken down into component parts, eg. station costs, guideway costs, vehicle costs et cetera and table such information in the House. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow):

The report ICTS Development Program: Report on Phases 1 and 2 and Recommendations for Phase 3, indicates that the cost of underground construction is in the range of \$20 M to \$25 M per mile higher than the cost of at grade or elevated construction. Further, elevated costs were estimated as approximately \$4 M per mile more than at-grade costs. The following table indicates the estimated capital costs.

ICTS CAPITAL COST (\$M per route mile)

	At-Grade	Elevated	Underground
Station	1.14	2.23	1.84
Guideway	0.79	2.61	13.74
Trackwork and Electrification	2.77	2.77	2.77
Command and Control	0.25	0.25	0.25
Vehicles	6.70	6.70	6.70
Other	2.33	3.40	7.32
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total (\$M)	14.0	17.9	32.6

10. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation an itemized breakdown of the estimated costs associated with the test track facility near Kingston and actual expenditures to date, and table such information in the House. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow):

The overall ICTS (Intermediate Capacity Transit System) program budget breakdown for the test track facility is as follows: Development contractor management and engineering, \$1,693,800; test track, \$3,900,100; support facilities, \$4,008,500; electrical power distribution, \$1,096,000; command control and communications, \$2,312,200; moving UTDC and contractor staff to Kingston, \$1,860,000. Total, \$14,850,600.

Actual expenditures to the end of May, 1977, on activities related to the facility, including land costs, were \$2,669,790.

The CLRV budget for the test track facility is: Track, electrification and switching, \$3,113,000; service road, \$100,000; signal system, \$80,000; incremental cost for LRV portion of test, operations and maintenance, building and equipment, \$567,600. Total, \$3,860,600.

Expenditures to the end of May were \$4,349.

11. Mr. Cunningham—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Transportation and Communications undertake to obtain from the Urban Transportation Development Corporation a list of senior personnel and their salaries and benefits, and table such information in the House. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow):

1976 compensation:

Executive levels: President; Senior Vice-President Operations and Engineering; Senior Vice-President Marketing and Planning; Vice-President Finance and Treasurer; General Counsel; Manager, Administration and Corporate Planning. Total, \$266,400; average salary, \$44,400.

Managers: Manager of Planning; Program Manager, ICTS; Manager Transit Applications; Manager Procurement and Supplier; Surveillance; Manager of Export Sales; Manager of Turn-Key Projects; Program Manager, CLRV; Manager of Technology; Manager of Engineering; Controller; Operations Manager; Manager of Sales; Manager of Government and Public Affairs. Total, \$451,821; average salary, \$34,755.

Fringe benefits: Statutory holidays, 11; vacation, three weeks first 15 years of continuous employment; company paid life insurance, three times annual salary for employees with dependents, one times annual salary for employees without dependents; extended health care; long-term disability; president and vice-presidents have a lease car with parking paid by the company.

12. Mr. Blundy—Inquiry of the ministry: 1. Has the entire route of Highway 402 from Highway 22 to Highway 401 been finally decided. 2. How many properties, if any, are still to be acquired in this area. 3. Have any contracts for construction of this portion of Highway 402 been let. [Tabled June 28, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow):

(1) The entire route for Highway 402 from where it crosses Highway 7 just west of the village of Warwick to Highway 401 has been designated.

(2) The question of outstanding properties may best be answered by townships, as the township boundaries closely approximate the contract limits. Originally there were 302 owners on these projects.

Township of Warwick, no properties outstanding; township of Adelaide, 10 properties outstanding; township of Caradoc, 48 properties outstanding; township of Delaware, two properties outstanding; township of Westminster, no properties outstanding.

(3) The question of contracts can also best be answered by referring to townships.

Township of Warwick, awarded as grading contract 76-47; township of Adelaide to Highway 81, awarded as grading contract 76-122, township of Caradoc, scheduled for award late 1978 based on availability of property and funds et cetera; township of Delaware, scheduled for award early 1978 based on settlement of two hearings of necessity; township of Westminster, scheduled for award late 1977.

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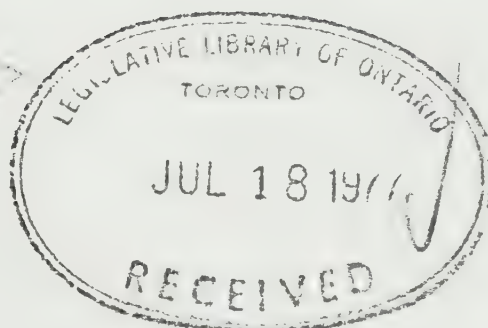
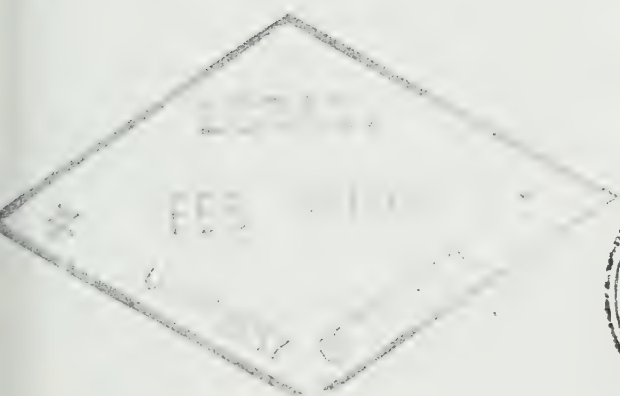
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No. 17

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament

Monday, July 11, 1977

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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A list of the speakers taking part in the debates in this issue of Hansard appears, in alphabetical order, at the back of this issue.

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Hansard subscription price is \$15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Printing Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 9th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, JULY 11, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY RONGO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, on April 29 I tabled in the Legislature a copy of an order in council, appointing Mr. Justice John David Cromarty to conduct an inquiry into the exemption granted to Rongo Development under The Land Speculation Tax Act. I am pleased that I will be able to table today the report of Mr. Justice Cromarty, and wish at the same time to commend him for a very thorough investigation of the circumstances, and the expeditious manner in which he dealt with the issue.

In his conclusion, Mr. Justice Cromarty says that, after a complete examination of all possible witnesses: "I am satisfied that there was no undue or improper influence brought to bear on anyone, from any source; nor was there any other impropriety of any kind in respect to the decision by the government in granting an exemption under the provisions of The Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974, to the partnership carrying on business as Rongo Development Company."

Mr. Speaker, I trust these findings will reassure the people of Ontario who, understandably, might have been concerned by the initial reports on the subject.

Mr. Kerrio: They're still concerned.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Keep up the innuendoes; is that what you want to do?

Mr. S. Smith: Do you know the terms of reference yourself?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ORAL QUESTIONS

OHTB BUS LICENCE

Mr. S. Smith: A question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications: Can he tell us whether he can explain to this House what it was that prompted Ontario Northland Transportation Commission—a creature of the government, after all—to apply on May 8, 1976, to over-run Gray Coach Lines and then to withdraw that

application at the end of October, just before the Greyhound matter? Can he explain whether he knew anything of that decision to apply and the decision to withdraw? Can he explain those decisions to us?

Hon. Mr. Snow: As I recall, Ontario Northland did apply for a licence to implement what it called its executive or deluxe bus service from Sudbury to Toronto, similar to the service that it is operating down Highway 11 through North Bay to Toronto. It did make that application.

Subsequent to that application being made, Gray Coach Lines implemented the same type of service. It had not done so previous to that time—it was a regular bus service—but sometime between the two dates the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned, Gray Coach Lines implemented the deluxe service. After this service was in fact in operation, Ontario Northland decided it would no longer proceed with its application. I believe those to be the facts.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: The minister is saying to the House, therefore, that the only application which Ontario Northland was making was for a different kind of service—an executive service—and not for any normal type of service which would over-run Gray Coach Lines.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, that's what I believe I said, Mr. Speaker. I would have to check all the paperwork, because it happened some time ago. But as I recall, the application was for the executive bus service from Sudbury to Toronto, similar to that which it was operating on the Highway 11 corridor; and when that service was implemented by Gray Coach Lines, Ontario Northland did not proceed.

Mr. Kerrio: Supplementary: If Gray Coach Lines reacted in that way to provide this service when that over-running was threatened, does the minister not agree that if it were given the same opportunity to provide the service on these other roads where it is being over-run by Greyhound, it would have reacted in turn?

Hon. Mr. Snow: To my understanding, Gray Coach Lines was given that opportunity. It has had those licences for years, and

OHTB BUS LICENCE

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware whether or not Karl Mallette has made known to the Highway Transport Board the recent philosophical change in the attitude of Gray Coach Lines towards providing service? What is Karl Mallette playing at? What kind of a game is this that he is playing, when he now tells us that he is not going to provide service to some of the small municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Davis: He was playing with some of you opposite a few weeks ago, wasn't he Stuart?

Mr. Roy: You are the one who is playing games.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of what the hon. member refers to.

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Has the minister had drawn to his attention the fact that Karl Mallette, the chairman of Gray Coach Lines, has indicated that the bus line no longer intends to maintain the philosophy of providing service to the public but rather intends to go to a profit-oriented philosophy, which will mean a reduction in service to many of the small municipalities that it used as the basis for its argument before the Ontario Highway Transport Board?

Mr. Reid: That's what the government forced them into doing.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor to answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am not responsible for what Mr. Mallette says.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, yes you are.

Hon. Mr. Snow: He certainly doesn't send me copies of everything that he says, and I certainly wouldn't want to be held responsible for some of his philosophies.

Mr. Deans: I think you read the statement.

Mr. Lewis: I don't blame you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You don't like him very much.

Mr. Lewis: I can take him or leave him.

Hon. B. Stephenson: He is one of yours, Stephen.

Hon. Mr. Snow: He may have made statements like this to the Highway Transport Board during the period of the rehearing of the particular case mentioned, I don't know.

[2:15]

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: Would it be the minister's intention then, at the time he receives the report from the Highway Transport Board from those hearings, to take into account what is an evident change in the entire managerial philosophy of Gray Coach and try to impose some restriction to ensure that small municipalities in Ontario will in fact receive adequate bus transportation service from Gray Coach or whoever else has been given the right to the franchises?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would first say that we should await the report of the Highway Transport Board, which I think will be forthcoming very soon.

Mr. Deans: I look with interest at the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell). I am almost afraid to say anything. You have something?

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is the best question you have asked: "You have something?"

Mr. Deans: Goodness gracious, then I'll wait for a ministerial statement.

MERCURY POLLUTION

Mr. Deans: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment: Can the minister give us some clear indication of what it is that's being done when he says that he is currently attempting to find out where the sources of mercury pollution come from with regard to the mercury pollution that has been uncovered in the Muskoka Lakes area?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The staff and officials of the ministry have put together a team as a result of finding certain levels in fish early this year and late last year. Their task is to try to ascertain what man-made source or what source, normal, industrial or commercial or residential, may be in existence in the Muskoka Lakes that is the cause of the problem there.

We are testing the sediment at the bottom of those lakes where we have found fish that have high mercury level readings. We are looking at any abandoned industrial or commercial operation, such as tanneries, where there is some possibility they may be the cause.

We are looking at existing sewage treatment plants in the area. We are looking at any possibility of any improper disposal of industrial liquid waste and any possible source that may contain mercury, that is in the bottom sediment and resulting in high fish readings.

Mr. Gaunt: Have you checked the lodge of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. F. S. Miller)?

Mr. Deans: Supplementary: is the minister confining the search to the immediate Muskoka area or is he prepared to take the suggestion of my colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) that it may well be that of some of this pollution comes by way of the air and that the problems could well be located some considerable distance from the Muskoka area?

Secondly, what is the minister doing to try to determine mercury levels in the other lakes, other than those he's presently indicated do have contamination levels higher than public acceptance would allow? What is he doing to try to ensure that public health is not being threatened in those areas?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: As to the first question, we are looking upstream from the particular lakes in question, at the tributaries and any rivers that flow into those lakes. All those sources are being looked at.

As far as air emissions are concerned, airborne contamination, we are also examining any plants within a 200- or 300-mile radius that may have mercury in the manufacturing process, which may become airborne. As I said, this investigation started last January.

For example, our people were examining snow, any possible contamination through ingredients in snow, metallic ingredients in snow that might indicate there is airborne mercury. That has been done and analysed. We haven't found anything, but we will continue to do that. Any possibility of sediments in rain is also being examined.

As for any other areas, as the hon. member has mentioned, that testing goes on. The sources of course, in areas such as Lake Ontario or Lake Erie or northwestern Ontario, have been known to us and eliminated now. The problem there is not the same as the problem in the Muskokas where we just can't find a man-made source. It's a mystery and we are trying to find that.

I've indicated the methods we're using. I'm satisfied and the people in my ministry are satisfied that this mercury loss has existed over a long period of time; it is in the bottom sediments, and that's why the particular species of fish are being contaminated.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary: Could the minister indicate to the House why the team seems to have confined its study area to a 200- or 300-mile radius? Are they not, in fact, examining the research of the Freshwater Biological Institute in Minneapolis, which I pointed out to the minister last week, and wouldn't it make some sense that

if they are examining the sediment in snow and in rain, that they study the North American meteorological patterns to see if, in fact, the emissions may come from further distances, either from the Inco stack or from the Michigan peninsula where a number of thermal coal generating stations exist?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: That's right, Mr. Speaker. The point I'm trying to make is that we have to identify and ascertain definitely that this contamination is airborne. We are looking at the site where the problem is and at the same time looking within a 200- to 300-mile radius to see if there are sources. If we don't find the problem I've talked about in the lake sediment, in rain or snow and in areas such as that, then airborne emissions may not be the problem here. We have to establish that at the source. If there is that contamination at the point of the impingement in the lakes that we're talking about, then we go further afield to locate the source.

Mr. B. Newman: Supplementary: Has the ministry contacted the officials from the state of Michigan, the air pollution branch of some ministry there, and found out if their analysis of pollutants from coal generating stations and other coal burning companies may be one of the reasons for the pollutants in the Muskoka area?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the questions last week, we are doing that, working through the International Joint Commission.

PORT DOVER FISHERY

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources in regard to the Port Dover fishing industry. It's been almost a year and a half now since the 10-inch limit on perch was enforced and the fishermen in Port Dover and Long Point Bay have been trying to co-operate with the ministry. Reports coming back are that the poundage being taken this year is less than in 1976. Would the minister consider increasing the 10 per cent to a percentage that would provide the fishermen in that area with a livelihood? Would he consider doing that at this time?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member and I have discussed this a number of times. I think he meant to say eight inches, not 10 inches, on the limit.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Yes, eight inches.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes. Most certainly my concern is both for the future of the fishery,

and therefore the future of the fishermen. Neither one of them has a future unless the fish are protected. The very fact that catches in excess of eight inches are hard to get is, to me, the major symptom of the problem. The fishery is over-stretched. Therefore, the actions we've taken to control the size of the fish in the area are in the long-term interest of both the fishery and the fishermen.

I think the temptation to take a catch today, in today's market, whether it be fish or whether it be any other product that depends on natural regeneration, is such that it must be avoided. I've agreed, as the member knows, to look at the size of mature fish in certain waters of Lake Erie to see if it's possible to waive the eight-inch limit or the percentage of undersized fish in certain bays where the fish may mature at a smaller overall size. Most important, I'm told we should allow these fish to have a chance to spawn, I believe it's twice, before they reach the size allowable for catch. If we don't, the progress toward rehabilitation of fish in Lake Erie simply won't occur and there will be no future for the fishermen.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Supplementary: I think an investigation was to have taken place by the ministry. Has there been any report pointing out the fact there could be a slower growth rate in the Long Point Bay area?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think there are indications, although the reports aren't finalized, that there probably are some areas of the lake—not just the one, but a number of areas—where fish mature at a smaller overall size. The hon. member and I have talked about this. They apparently have slightly different characteristics of weight versus length.

Our purpose is to have had them spawn a couple of times, I'm told, before they're caught. If they're at that point where they've regenerated, they're ready to be taken. My staff haven't given me a final piece of advice on that.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Labour: Is the minister aware of the several attempts by the Communications Workers, local No. 1, and the Organization of Working Women who are working with them, to meet with her office on behalf of the 18 striking women at the Academy of Medicine, concerning that unfortunate and now lengthening strike?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the entire operation of the answering service of the Academy of Medicine was terminated as of June 14 of this year and there is no longer, I gather, an employer in this dispute.

Mr. Deans: What a way to get out of collective bargaining, it speaks volumes.

Mr. Cassidy: You support that too, don't you?

Mr. Mackenzie: Supplementary to the Minister of Labour: The minister hasn't answered my question. These workers and the Organization of Working Women have been attempting to meet with her. I believe the Academy may have turned some of the answering calls back to another answering service. In as much as this was another effort at a first contract where the workers seem to be going down the drain, I'm wondering if the minister would not meet with these people and have a discussion with them? I know they've requested such a meeting with the minister.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, the union representative for that group of women did request a meeting earlier on. I have not heard of a request for a meeting recently with them. It is my purpose and my aim to meet with every group which requests a meeting and I will most certainly attempt to do so.

RENFREW NURSING HOME

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have an answer to a question put to me earlier last week by the member for Wentworth regarding the Groves Park Lodge Nursing Home in Renfrew.

Prior to July 1, 1977, Groves Park Lodge Nursing Home in Renfrew was owned and operated by Medi-Park Lodges Incorporated. On July 1 of this year the nursing home was sold to Mr. and Mrs. William Viveen.

On July 1, 1977, the new owners distributed employment application forms to 39 of the staff members who were terminated on June 30. A total of 18 original staff members were not re-employed. Since July 1, 1977, the new owners have hired 13 new employees who were not previously employed at this facility.

Nursing inspectors have investigated the situation five times thus far, and report that the needs of the residents are being met with very little disruption due to the union activities outside. Groves Park Lodge is a 75-bed facility and during the past week a few residents have gone out on weekend or day passes. It is reported by our nursing inspectors that the home is operating at its maxi-

mum capacity. There has not been an exodus of residents.

The staffing pattern has been examined and found to be in compliance with the regulations under The Nursing Homes Act, 1972. On Monday, July 4, 1977, the staffing schedule was noted as follows:

Morning shift: One registered nurse on seven days, plus one registered nurse on three days. Monday to Friday, seven and a half non-registered aids—I should explain that "half" means people working half-days over the busiest period. Saturday, six and a half non-registered aides; Sunday, six non-registered aides.

Afternoon shift: One registered nursing assistant, plus four non-registered aides, plus one non-registered aide for five hours.

Night shift: One registered nursing assistant plus three non-registered aides.

In addition to the above nursing staff there are two cooks, two housekeeping staff and one laundry attendant.

All of the required services are being provided on a continuing basis with no evidence of any deterioration in the normal services such as nursing care, housekeeping, dietary services or general maintenance.

In addition to this information, my staff reported to me on the classification of staff that were: (a) Rehired under the new management; (b) those staff whose services were terminated; and (c) new staff. If I may, I'll take them in that order.

Staff rehired as of July 1, 1977. One registered nurse, director of nursing; two registered nurses; three registered nursing assistants; 10 health care aides; one orderly, who has since resigned; one cook; three kitchen workers; two laundry workers; one maintenance man.

Staff terminated and not rehired: Ten health care aides; one registered nursing assistant; three housekeeping staff; one secretary.

There are four persons on holiday and the inspector was unable to determine whether they would be returning to work. These include one activity director and one health care aide. One staff member is on maternity leave and it is expected that she will be returning to work at the end of July 1977. She is a registered nurse.

New staff hired were 10 health care aides, two housekeeping staff and one orderly.

[2:30]

In light of the foregoing, Mr. Speaker, the Ottawa regional supervisor is monitoring the staffing pattern very closely and is in daily contact with the home. While the home is operating smoothly and the residents are re-

ceiving the required nursing care, our Ottawa supervisor has identified a potential nursing problem. Apparently none of the 10 newly-hired health care aides have previous experience of working in a health care facility. The administrators, Mr. and Mrs. Viveen, discussed the situation with our supervisor and have agreed to hire additional registered staff immediately and to limit the number of non-experienced nursing staff in the staffing schedule.

I have a second answer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: We'll get the answer to the other question the next time around. The member for Wentworth has a supplementary.

Mr. Deans: Can the minister indicate the reason the 18 people were not re-employed? Did it have anything to do with the fact that, as a group, they had recently been certified to bargain collectively and that they had been involved in that process?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Not that I'm aware, Mr. Speaker. That would be between the employer and the employees.

Mr. Cassidy: That's your answer every time.

Interjections.

Mr. Deans: A supplementary question—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Deans: Is it normal practice, when a nursing home is sold, for the previous owner to fire everyone on the eve of the takeover and to then allow the new owner to rehire or not, at will without any consideration for the people involved?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I know, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Mackenzie: You close them and hire a new service.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Perhaps the member would let me finish.

Mr. Deans: I didn't say a word.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: No, the fellow behind you.

It is not, to the best of my knowledge, normal practice, but it is a matter which comes under the authority of my colleague, the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Mackenzie: Make sure you are going to say something.

Mr. Deans: Maybe the minister's colleague would like to say something about it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. One final supplementary on this from the member for Renfrew North.

Mr. Conway: I'm wondering whether or not the minister's staff have been able to

inform him as to why this unit, which had been opened less than a year ago, had to be resold under such controversial circumstances and whether or not this has had any bearing on the quality of care? Grove Park Manor was, I believe, opened late last year and is now being sold under very controversial circumstances.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't know how the hon. member defines controversial circumstances.

Mr. Conway: There was an article in the press which said it was a total mess. If the minister would read it, he might learn something.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The home was sold, the transfer of the licence was carried out and we're satisfied the residents are being properly cared for. I indicated the one area where we have made a suggestion which the administrators have agreed to adhere to, namely to limit the allocation of inexperienced staff in their scheduling and to hire more experienced staff for the home. I don't think that makes it a controversial circumstance. Nursing homes are being bought and sold all the time in the province.

Ms. Gigantes: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: That was the final supplementary.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Mr. Ruston: I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. Is the minister aware of the plight of boat owners on Lake St. Clair who have having difficulty getting in and out of the channels due to the low water and sandbars? Does he intend to take any action to assist in having these dredged out, or does he intend to co-operate with the federal government as he did a few years ago when they did it together?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, just as the member got to the location somebody sneezed.

Mr. Ruston: The mouths of the rivers leading to Lake St. Clair.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The rivers in general?

Mr. Ruston: Yes, the mouths of the rivers in Lake St. Clair.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, I'm not aware of it, Mr. Speaker. I'll be glad to look into it.

Mr. Peterson: Why can't you raise the water?

LOTTERY GRANTS

Ms. Bryden: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Is the minister aware that the past president of the Canadian Multiple Sclerosis Society has recently stated the society may have to borrow to maintain its planned research program this year because federal and provincial lotteries are siphoning off funds formerly going to activities of this society and other charities? Is he also aware that, to date, the society has received nothing from the Provincial Lottery funds, which are earmarked for health research, even though that lottery has been in operation for almost a year and the minister issued his guidelines four months ago on how the money was to be allocated—

An hon. member: She steals all my stuff.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Bryden: —and the lottery continues to advertise the money being spent.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member doesn't really need to explain it. I think the question has been asked.

Ms. Bryden: Will the minister tell us what is causing the holdup on allocation of these health research funds, and whether the Multiple Sclerosis Society is being considered?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The final part of the question was answered last week by my colleague, the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch).

As regards the second part, I met two weeks ago with the delegation from the Multiple Sclerosis Society, headed by Mr. Misener and Mr. White. I indicated they should, in fact, put forward for consideration, specific proposals along with other foundations in the province.

If the member is assuming that the \$15 million which has been allocated for health research could be allocated all at once, then she is forgetting, of course, that we are depending on the cash flow, the sales and the profits of the Provincial Lottery. Already, \$3.5 million has been allocated for research construction in the Ottawa area, so that a good part of our initial allocation has—

Mr. Warner: Health research lucky draw, that's terrific.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Does the member want to answer this question?

Mr. Warner: I would be glad to. You can't.

Mr. Cassidy: The minister is very testy today; insecure.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I want to give the facts to the House, not fantasy.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: As regards the guidelines that were—

Mr. Martel: He is surly today; had a rough weekend?

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. minister please ignore the interjections and just answer the question?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Gladly, Mr. Speaker, gladly.

An hon. member: Ask if they would stop making them.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The guidelines, the member is quite correct, were issued on March 4 and submissions are coming in now from the various foundations. I indicated at the time that all of the submissions will be subjected to what is known as peer group evaluation as to the potential of the various submissions, and I expect decisions to go out this fall.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary: With regard to the cash flow argument, I would ask if the entire \$3 million that has already been allocated to one society has been paid out? It seems to me that it's probably paid in instalments and I fail to understand why it should take so long to evaluate these allotments that societies have to borrow—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. member have a question?

Ms. Bryden: I would like to ask why the society should have to borrow when the money is probably there, and why it takes so long to process the applications?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, first of all, \$2 million has been paid out and that's been paid out to the Cancer Foundation. That was presented to them on March 4.

As regards the evaluation, the Provincial Lottery funds—and I have emphasized this repeatedly, first at the meeting on March 4 and then during meetings with the various elements of the research community—should not be viewed as the panacea. It is \$15 million; it is going to be spread among capital for buildings such as in Ottawa; for equipment; for chairs in each of the five health science centres; for research by the district health councils; for research by the statutory and other foundations. The reason it is taking a while is that we had to allow sufficient time first of all for submissions to be made and then, over the summer and into September, we will allow sufficient time for the peer group evaluations to be made of those applications, and for the advice to be given as to which ones merit consideration for part of that \$15 million.

I emphasize again, that is not the panacea; I have emphasized repeatedly with the various foundations that they should not in any way let up in their efforts to raise funds publicly, and wherever possible that they should continue to introduce innovations to attract public attention to continue to meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health may give the answer to the other question which had been asked previously.

FIRE SAFETY IN NURSING HOMES

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have an answer to a further question, raised by the member for Wentworth on July 5, with regard to the type of mattresses used in nursing homes and other health care facilities.

At the present time there is nothing in The Nursing Homes Act covering the type of material from which mattresses and pillows may be made, and therefore a variety of materials are in common use in the nursing homes in this province. The mattresses in general use have a spring core and are usually covered by material known as Staphchek, which is a material made of polyvinyl chloride. This cover is waterproof and treated with a flame retardant. Staphchek is manufactured and tested in the United States and I am advised that it exceeds all existing United States specifications. There are no waterproof tickings made in Canada.

I am further advised that most institutions within the last five years have switched to bedding covered by this material, which is mainly manufactured and tested in the state of California. The usual tests involve applying a lighted cigarette to the material and sometimes a lighted match also. According to the National Research Council in Ottawa, at the present time there are no standards for testing the flammability of bedding in Canada. Their products safety branch is working on this matter and is currently trying to establish suitable standards.

The theoretical hazard of nursing homes related to bedding may be defined in terms of residents safety in their bedrooms. Existing legislation requires nursing home operators to adhere to the following provision. I quote from Ontario Regulation 196/72 as amended, section 39(v): "They must develop policies and rules to govern tobacco smoking, including a rule that, except at such times as supervision is provided, a resident shall not smoke tobacco in bed."

In addition to the foregoing, the entire aspect of general and fire safety in nursing homes is presently being studied as an integral part of a detailed review of the exist-

ing Nursing Homes Act and its regulations. The project co-ordinator has been requested to explore this issue in depth with the fire marshal's office in an attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing provisions. It should also be noted that the product safety branch of the National Research Council of Canada is attempting to establish suitable standards regarding such problems.

JOB CREATION

Mr. Bolan: My question is for the Premier. In view of the fact that the rate of unemployment in northeastern Ontario is an appalling 12 per cent, what proposals, if any, does the government have for job creation in that area?

Mr. Cassidy: None.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Our proposals for job creation are well known, I am sure, to the members opposite. While we have a particular interest in northeastern Ontario, we also have a particular interest in northwestern Ontario as well. It is not confined to northeastern Ontario; we are very concerned about eastern Ontario; we are concerned about western Ontario—

Mr. Nixon: Southwestern and the urban areas.

Mr. Cassidy: It is a joke.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and we are concerned about central Ontario. I would have to say that because of the policies initiated by this government, the very sound financial approach we are taking to the management of the affairs of this province—

Mr. Cassidy: You trivialize a very serious question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —while we have a much higher unemployment rate than we would like, it is better than most comparable jurisdictions. We think with this same rational approach that we are taking we are dealing with the issue as effectively as possible.

Mr. Warner: Same old nonsense.

Mr. Bolan: Supplementary: Does the Premier accept the principle recently enunciated by the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough) that an unemployment rate of 5.3 per cent in this province is considered full employment and is therefore acceptable?

Mr. Roy: You are touchy on that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I really didn't think we were at an all candidates' meeting here this afternoon, but if the hon. member wants me to reply, if he's got half an hour, I would be delighted to do so.

Mr. Cassidy: You are grandstanding.

Hon. Mr. Davis: May I start off my brief submission to the new member for Nipissing by saying that my recollection—and it is only a recollection—is that the Treasurer never said that figure, whatever it is, was acceptable.

Mr. Nixon: That is your defence.

Hon. Mr. Davis: My recollection was and is that there was a paper presented along with the budget. We've been through this several times.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. S. Smith) is whispering to his colleague. "I didn't ask the question." I am only endeavouring to help his colleague as much as I can.

My recollection is that there was a budget paper—

Mrs. Campbell: That's where you are wrong.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the member for St. George wants to raise this issue, I will be delighted to debate it with her too; and any other issue.

Mr. Conway: The Premier didn't hear Merle Dickerson's campaign speeches.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's what I say, I didn't think we were at an all candidates' meeting. I thought we hashed this out in June.

Mr. Conway: Merle was much better than this.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I am sure. In Deep River—

Mr. Speaker: Will the Premier please continue with the answer.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, Mr. Speaker; they are interjecting.

Mr. Speaker: That is right, I noticed.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There was a budget paper where some people were putting forward the suggestion that, because of the great changes taking place in our society today, one should use as sort of a guidepost a five point something figure.

Mr. Nixon: Mackenzie King the Second.

Hon. Mr. Davis: My best recollection, too, is that the leader of the New Democratic Party nationally has used a three point something figure, or four, I don't know what the figure is. All I have said, and what the Treasurer said, and I will repeat it here again, and it is again—

Mr. Kerrio: Is he running this place?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Pardon, do you want to ask a supplementary? Mr. Speaker, I can't concentrate on my answer if they are going to continue to interject.

What we have said is simply that we don't accept any principle where any person—male or female—who wants to work cannot find a job. Our policies are directed to seeing that for everybody who wishes to find a job in this province, to the best of our ability, we will see that a job is available.

Mr. Breithaupt: Even in Kitchener?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Even in Kitchener.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is this a supplementary?

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary: Can the Premier indicate if he has anything specific to suggest for northeastern Ontario and the various areas in northeastern Ontario which are suffering unemployment rates much higher than 12 per cent, such as along the north shore where it's about 20 per cent. What specifically does he have to offer?

Mr. Breaugh: Nothing.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we are always prepared to entertain any constructive idea.

Mr. Wildman: Build the Granary Lake Road.

[2:45]

Hon. Mr. Davis: Pardon; I didn't hear that. Along with the member's leader, I certainly don't believe that nationalization of the resource industry is a constructive solution to the problem. I don't think that's going to solve anything for us.

My, I was glad to see that reformation take place on Channel 9 that night.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: So Mr. Speaker, we're concerned about the north shore—

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: You could build a road through—

Hon. Mr. Davis: We're concerned about all areas of the province. As I said to the newly-elected member for Nipissing, we will continue to pursue those policies that will enable us to provide fuller employment over a period of time.

Mr. Davidson: The Premier doesn't have a policy to pursue.

PRAXIS INQUIRY

Mr. Lawlor: A question to the Attorney General about the Praxis break-in situation: On or about July 6 he ordered an OPP investigation in Ontario on this matter; the following day, Francis Fox, Solicitor General of Canada, reversed himself and ordered a

royal commission. Is the Attorney General continuing his present investigations, or what are his relationships with that new royal commission?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I forget the precise date, but some days prior to the announcement by the federal Solicitor General of the federal inquiry, I received a letter from Mr. Fox by special courier indicating that certain individuals might have information in relation to the Praxis break-in.

I immediately delivered a copy of the letter to the chairman of the Ontario Police Commission, Mr. Elmer Bell, and requested a report. Mr. Bell subsequently announced the inquiry that is actually being carried on by the Ontario Police Commission with the assistance of the OPP. As far as I know that inquiry is continuing; I know of no direct relationship or association between those conducting that inquiry and those—whatever they are—who have been given the responsibility with respect to the federal inquiry.

Mr. Lawlor: Supplementary: Does the Attorney General agree that they appear to be somewhat related?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have no idea, Mr. Speaker, at this time.

CCAS DISPUTE

Mrs. Campbell: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Interjections.

Mr. Reid: Surprise, surprise.

Mrs. Campbell: You know, I have a series of questions. I wish we could have time to go over all of them, particularly having heard the Premier talk about the government's employment policies. I do hope he will be making the statement that he promised about the jobs the government has created.

But with reference to the continuing strike at the Catholic Children's Aid Society, has the minister considered taking steps to appoint a children's committee, in view of the seriousness of this matter; or in the alternative, invoking section 18 of The Child Welfare Act, which would allow the minister to replace the existing board of directors with a temporary board in order to resolve this strike?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would like to assure the hon. member that I have taken steps to be fully advised of the alternatives that are available to me as minister should the situation merit such action, either in the near future or the distant future, depending upon how long the current situation continues.

I am advised by my staff, who are monitoring the situation as closely as possible, that the welfare of the children is not at this point in jeopardy. Should there be any indication of a threat to the welfare of the children, I can assure the member that I would be prepared to consider prompt action under those circumstances.

In the meantime, I think that I must be very cautious so as not to unnecessarily intervene, other than for the welfare of the children, into what is from my point of view a dispute between management and employees. If I do appear to be proceeding cautiously, it's so as not to interfere with that process at this point in time. But I can assure the House that if the member or anyone else has information that indicates the welfare of the children may be in jeopardy, I would welcome that information and review it immediately.

Mrs. Campbell: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Would the information coming to the minister as to the welfare of these children come from the same sources who assured him of the ongoing welfare of the children vis-à-vis Metro and the decisions involving residential care?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is referring to the staff of the ministry, the staff of the ministry has not changed substantially in that period of time. I must say that I have confidence in their advice.

Mrs. Campbell: That's the problem.

Mr. McClellan: By way of supplementary to the same minister, given that the absence of 85 child-care and other professional staff, by virtue of the strike, inevitably threatens the welfare of children, will the minister not at least appeal to the executive director to agree to voluntary arbitration? Will he not at least make that appeal personally to him, as I have?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I don't wish to get into a discussion of the circumstances that prevail at the present time; I'm sure the hon. member knows there is even disagreement as to the number of persons who may be on strike at the present time. I think what the hon. member is inviting me to consider doing would be an interference by a minister who does not have jurisdiction to interfere in an area of a labour dispute.

CUPE BARGAINING

Mr. Kerrio: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware of the fact that in regional Niagara, CUPE was on strike with the region, and at the same time striking the city of Niagara Falls and at the same time taking a strike vote in Fort Erie?

In view of the fact that we're now talking province-wide bargaining for many trades, is there any consideration being given to reasonable area bargaining with CUPE employees?

Hon. B. Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, under the broad terms of The Labour Relations Act in this province I would think that voluntary movement in that direction could be achieved by both the employers and the unions if they wished to go that way. Certainly the bill we have reintroduced in this session, and which will come up for second reading, is an experiment in that kind of program. We believe province-wide bargaining is appropriate in certain specific instances and that may be one of the instances, I don't know.

At least, I think the concept of bargaining on a regional basis for those areas in which regional government is in effect might be a much more rational approach than bargaining on a one-by-one basis with the municipalities and suffering the same kind of whipsawing that one sees in other industries as a result of small bargaining units and a municipality thereof.

Mr. Kerrio: Would I then take the minister's answer in content to be that she would wait for some initiative from unions or the region rather than some initiative from the ministry itself—such as the minister's involvement earlier on?

Hon. B. Stephenson: No, I don't think the member can construe that from my remarks, Mr. Speaker. I did say that indeed it could be at the initiative of both the unions and the employers, however.

CAMP BISON

Mr. Martel: I have a question of the Acting Minister of Government Services: Has an agreement been reached between the federal authorities and his ministry concerning the purchase of Camp Bison by the feds as a maximum security prison?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I am not aware, but I will find out and let the hon. member know.

Mr. Martel: A supplementary then, while the minister is looking it up: If it's true in fact this agreement has been reached, would the minister find out why the province is delaying finalizing that agreement until a survey of the property can be completed?

Hon. Mr. Auld: I can guess at the answer to that one: You need a survey to give a deed.

Mr. Martel: As another supplementary question: Because the government has had three years to do that, doesn't the minister

think it is high time we get on with the business of resolving it rather than losing the money we're losing there now?

NURSES' DISPUTE

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Premier: Would the Premier care to elucidate in this House as to what, if any, positive outcome there was to his meeting with the nurses from the Renfrew County Board of Health last week?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, while visiting in that very delightful part of the province—

Mr. Roy: When? During the election?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Roy: Isn't it nice? You build up—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am of course delighted—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Premier will answer the question. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —that at least part of Renfrew county exercises great wisdom, as is evident by the parliamentary assistant—

Mr. S. Smith: If that is the best evidence you have you are in trouble.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If I were Leader of the Opposition I wouldn't look too far to the left or the right or behind for evidence. But anyway—

Mr. O'Neil: That wasn't very nice, Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, it was really said facetiously, as were his observations about the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Premier please answer the question.

Mr. Wildman: Everything you say is facetious.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Where did I leave off?

Mr. Roy: You didn't begin.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was asked by three of the public health nurses in Petawawa during the course of the campaign if I might discuss the issue with them. They came to my office, along with two representatives of the nurses' association in company with the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) and the Minister of Labour (B. Stephenson). As a result of those discussions, the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Health plan to convene a meeting, as I understand it with the association of health boards. When that meeting is held, perhaps we will be in a position to have something further to say. But that was, I would suggest, the most

direct result of that particular meeting in my office last Thursday or Friday.

Mr. Conway: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: As a result of the Premier's May 26 meeting in Petawawa, as I understand from a letter written to him on June 13, he promised the nurses in question that from his point of view after June 9 he would be in a better position to offer something substantial and specific in terms of the resolution of this very serious public dispute in Ontario.

Mr. S. Smith: They thought you would be in opposition.

Mr. Conway: Is there at this point, now fully a month after June 9, anything specific and substantial, as promised by the Premier to the nurses, who are similarly disturbed by this controversy?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, in fairness to the three ladies who were present in my office—and I don't usually discuss what goes on in my office—I think I made it clear to them, and I think they understood, that I was referring very directly to the Renfrew county situation.

There was some suggestion that the government had a province-wide solution. I think they understood that they perhaps misunderstood what I had been saying to them earlier, in the midst of a rather large group of people at this meeting, that I did say to them on that particular date that I couldn't meet with them before June 9; that my timetable was relatively full. I had explained there were other matters to be dealt with and that after June 9 I would be delighted to meet with them. I honoured that commitment, as I say. I think it was last Thursday afternoon, and as a result of that meeting I have already informed the hon. member what the next step is.

ENTERO-VIOFORM PRESCRIPTION

Mr. Foulds: If a may, Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health. Can the Minister of Health advise us what steps he has taken and what power he has to ensure that the drug sold under the brand name Entero-Vioform is sold by prescription only? There is increasing scientific evidence that that drug can cause some brain damage and blindness and it has been sold over the counter as an antidiarrheal drug.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I'm not familiar with that particular drug, Mr. Speaker, so I'll have to take that as notice and look into it.

NUCLEAR PLANT SECURITY

Mr. Bradley: A question of the Minister of Energy: In light of the report that three

members of the Greenpeace organization were allegedly able to easily trespass on Ontario Hydro property at the Bruce nuclear generating station and elude security personnel for a considerable period of time, is the minister satisfied with security at the Bruce station and other nuclear plants? If not, is he prepared to review security procedures at all nuclear generating stations in the province?

Mr. S. Smith: Great question.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, we encourage visitors.

An hon. member: At four o'clock in the morning by canoe?

Interjections.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: May I add, preferably not by canoe, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Dav's: What have you got against canoeing?

Mr. Speaker: Now, for the answer.

Interjections.

[3:00]

Hon. J. A. Taylor: I'm not particularly disturbed. There was some dramatization of that. I think we had a few environmental streakers who were interested in a little publicity, but really there was no breach of security. If they'd like to visit the plant like the thousands of visitors who do, then we'd be delighted to show them through.

Mr. Wildman: What if they had been carrying machine guns?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: The building that houses the reactor is sufficiently strong to withstand the impact of a 747, so I don't think we're going to be too concerned about three canoeists who happen to visit the grounds of the Bruce nuclear station.

Mr. Kerrio: I'm glad you are not the defence minister.

Mr. Cassidy: Did you try crashing a 747 against it?

Interjections.

Mr. Reed: Supplementary: Is the minister satisfied that people cannot have access to areas where they could either endanger themselves or ultimately endanger others, with this apparent laxity in security in these nuclear plants?

Interjections.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Again, I don't accept the question of a laxness of security. There's really not much difference, in that situation, between a conventional plant or a nuclear-fuelled plant in terms of the exterior. It's when you get within the confinement of the

building that the added security is present. It's much more secure and safe, I'm sure, than the conventional type of generating plant or a transformer site.

RENFREW NURSING HOME

Ms. Gigantes: I have a question for the Minister of Health. I would like to know if the ministry had foreknowledge, when it granted the transfer of the nursing home licence for Grove Park Lodge, that all its staff would be dismissed?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Not that I'm aware of, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Gigantes: Supplementary: I'd like to know why it's considered adequate that a transfer should take place when what the minister describes as the identification of a possible nursing care problem has arisen directly from the fact that there didn't seem to be foreknowledge? Why should that be considered adequate in the province of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The point is that prior to transfer, a considerable number of meetings are held with the new or proposed owners to apprise them of the regulations. During the initial stages a number of visits are made to ensure that they are not only aware of the requirements of the Act and regulations but that they are being followed.

In this case, which involved the changing of a number of staff, our supervisors of nursing indicated that the inexperienced people should be spread among the shifts and not concentrated on any one shift.

So our concern is for the level of care. Certainly we did not, to the best of my knowledge, have any prior knowledge that the new owners proposed to do this. It is certainly not a normal practice.

Ms. Gigantes: Supplementary: I'd like to ask the minister to state clearly to the House that the regulations involving a transfer of nursing home licence will be changed so the ministry finds out, beforehand, whether all the staff is going to be fired immediately on transfer.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is being a little bit—

Mr. Reid: Ridiculous.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Well, what's a synonym?

Mr. Swart: He's concerned about people.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will just complete the answer.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: We are naturally concerned. Our first concern is for the care of the patients.

Mr. Deans: That needs staff.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't think it would be wise, to do as I think the member is suggesting, to require a new purchaser to take everyone, lock, stock and barrel, so the new owners wouldn't have any choice at all as to who would be a problem.

What if we were to get an answer, "No, that wasn't the intention. It happened afterwards." We would still be as much involved in making sure that if everyone did leave—

Ms. Gigantes: After the fact.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: By the way, not everyone did leave, let's make that clear. The member is trying to paint a picture that everyone was dismissed. Everybody wasn't dismissed.

Ms. Gigantes: That was the information.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: No, not everyone did leave.

Mr. Deans: Eighteen were fired.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

Mr. Roy: My God, you make some stupid decisions sometimes.

Mr. Speaker: The clock is five minutes after the hour.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member should take back that remark.

Mr. Roy: No. You allowed three supplementaries and then you cut me off.

Some hon. members: Oh, sit down

Mr. Speaker: I have to abide by the clock.

An hon. member: Rules are rules.

Mr. Speaker: Petitions.

Presenting reports.

Motions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ONTARIO WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECLAMATION COMMISSION ACT

Mr. B. Newman moved first reading of Bill 58, An Act to establish the Ontario Waste Disposal and Reclamation Commission.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to establish an Ontario Waste Disposal and Reclamation Commission to have the authority in matters concerning disposal, reclamation and recycling of liquid, solid and gaseous wastes, with particular reference to

the possible development of energy from these sources.

Mr. Conway: The Tory ad campaign.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUCCESSOR RIGHTS (CROWN TRANSFERS) ACT

Hon. Mr. Auld moved second reading of Bill 4, An Act to provide for Successor Rights on the Transfer of an Undertaking to or from the Crown.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to the bill. We feel it is of great usefulness and utility that these arrangements can be made now by law so that the successor rights in the transferences of contracts are going to be established in a way that is going to be effective, we believe, and no doubt on the basis of both parties, with sufficient assistance by the two boards concerned so that there will be an objective approach to any problems that might arise.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, we are in agreement with the bill but we would like to have some discussion on at least one of the points in the particular bill before we proceed with it to final reading.

In section 6(1), the bill says: "Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, (a) a trade union or council of trade unions shall not exercise representation rights or act as bargaining agent in respect of employees employed in an undertaking transferred from an employer to the Crown unless the trade union or council of trade unions qualifies as an employee organization under The Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act . . ."

When one checks The Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act, section (h), it very clearly states: "Employee organizations mean an organization of employees formed for the purpose of regulating relations between the employer and employees under the Act."

We think the bill itself is a good one. There is a long-overdue need for successor rights in this field, as there is in the whole area of the trade union movement; not just with unions that may be involved in the public or the governmental field. But this bill does not seem to be reciprocal. It means that coming in from an outside group to The Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act, a union could be put in a position where it has to recertify.

I say that because there is at least one example on record, and that was the effort to organize the Workmen's Compensation Board employees back in 1974. CUPE at that time was denied certification based strictly on that section, that the unit was not an organization

set up to represent employees under The Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act. They had to go through a second effort at organization, a second re-signing, and set up a specific local to take care to qualify under The Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act.

It's a concern of at least some people in the field, the various unions that may be involved in these fields, Mr. Speaker, that it's not really a reciprocal bill, which it should be. It doesn't seem to work both ways and I think there should be chance for the parties who are interested to have some input in this particular point.

We'd like to see it broader. We'd like to see some of the restrictions, including political activity, removed. But even without those the bill itself is a good one. It establishes a principle that has to be established, but I think we have to answer the question of whether it works one way only and whether or not it is reciprocal, and there are serious reservations on the part of some of the unions as to whether or not it is a reciprocal bill. We would like to discuss that matter with the minister.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, my own position is that it is a reciprocal bill because the same provisions apply. Somebody who is going out will be under The Labour Relations Act, anybody who is coming in would be under The Crown Employees' Collective Bargaining Act; but in view of the agreement in principle by both the other parties I'm prepared to send this to committee of the whole House and we will deal with it when the House resumes. At that time we can discuss these matters. Perhaps in the interim we may be able to solve some of these questions.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. B. Stephenson moved second reading of Bill 22, An Act to amend The Labour Relations Act.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for a chance to say a few words concerning this bill, a bill to give us province-wide, single-trade bargaining in the commercial and industrial sector of the construction industry. It is a bill that will have a great effect on the labour scene in the province and a bill which we hope will clear up some of the labour-management relations in the provincial construction industry. It is hoped that its enactment will result in the reduction of bargaining situations from ap-

proximately 250 to approximately 25 as a result of the requirement that bargaining within that sector be conducted on a single-trade, province-wide basis.

We will be supporting the principle of the bill but I must say that the enactment of it by this government is long overdue. First introduced as Bill 176 and then as Bill 14, the delays encountered because the ministry has not taken a strong initiative in seeing it passed have proved disappointing to all parties.

I would like to point out to the Legislature that some time ago very pertinent statements were made concerning this legislation by the previous member for Sarnia, Mr. Jim Bullbrook, as far back as 1968 and again during discussions on the bill in 1976. At that time, Mr. Bullbrook called for the principle of this type of province-wide, single-trade bargaining, because he recognized at that time that the leap-frogging and whipsawing that was going on was leading us down the path toward inflation. This has, indeed, proved true. It is indeed unfortunate that governments did not recognize this at that time.

I might say it is because of the representations made by Mr. Bullbrook, along with other politicians and those far-sighted people connected with the contractors' associations and the trade union movement, that the bill is finally coming to light.

Last week, our caucus met with Mr. Tom Armstrong, the Deputy Minister of Labour, Mr. Franks of the Franks commission, some members of the contractors' association and some leaders of the trade unions for further clarification on the bill. This meeting proved very informative and we thank those people for their comments and suggestions, and the minister for having Mr. Armstrong speak to us.

Since approximately 70 per cent of the agreements in the construction industry expired last April, and large segments of the industry are working without contracts and most of the renewals have been for only a one-year period expiring in April, 1978, we are sympathetic with those who have talked, written and wired us stating the bill should be passed in time so that parties concerned have time to make adequate preparations for 1978 negotiations.

I must say, though, that we have some concerns. We feel that the bill should go to committee so that persons wishing to have further input will have a chance to do so. We hope that committee meetings can be completed early this fall, before we reconvene in October, giving an opportunity for speedy

passage at that time so that these preparations for 1978 negotiations can be commenced and completed.

Some of the things that we feel should be dealt with in committee are the concern of the smaller union locals who are worried that their autonomy may vanish and the big unions may control all; the examination of how similar legislation has worked in other provinces; and the careful examination of an employer co-ordinating agency, and if a need is found for some sort of co-ordinating agency the extent to which governments should be involved in regulating the details of the agency's power and so on—should it be left only to the Lieutenant Governor in Council or left more to the responsibility of employer groups?

The committee should also be concerned with the effect of the legislation on Canadian autonomy. Also, the committee could deal with some thoughts on the selection of negotiating teams, ratification of agreements, processing of grievances locally, discrimination against those who are members or wish to join Canadian unions in order to make sure that it does not affect the welcomed trend toward the greater Canadian autonomy within international unions. We are also disappointed that no new initiatives are incorporated in the bill to assist in resolving disputes on a continuing basis.

It is hoped that with public input on these and other matters, this bill will be passed—a bill that we can all be proud of.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I am going to be very brief on the bill, simply because it is going to receive what I hope will be an adequate public airing over the course of the summer months. By the time we get back here in the fall it will have been changed substantially; or failing that, at least the people in the construction industry who have expressed grave reservations about the implications of the Act and the effect of the Act on the way they normally conduct their business, will have made themselves heard by the ministry so that appropriate changes can be made and their fears allayed by what is told to them during the course of events.

I want to tell the House that since the first introduction of the bill there have been a number of occasions when I have discussed the import of this legislation with people in the construction industry, both on management side and on the trade union side, and I have gathered from this experience a great deal of deeply-felt concern about how that bill will affect them.

I find it very difficult, during discussions of that kind, to be able to explain adequately

what the ministry might have had in mind when it was putting the bill forward, although I say to the minister, without any hesitation, that the thought of providing a vehicle for province-wide bargaining in certain areas is one which we have long toyed with and felt would probably serve a useful purpose. I think that the fears of some of the individuals may well be fears brought about by a lack of knowledge.

In some cases, they are going to be legitimate. They are going to be legitimate to the extent that they will detrimentally affect the individual people involved, and it may well be that one overall agreement may not adequately serve all people in a single trade, regardless of where they happen to be in the province of Ontario at any given time. I think that has been the concern brought forward most frequently, that conditions change dramatically. The needs in various parts of the province change somewhat from region to region and the collective bargaining process is intended, and over the years has taken those things into account.

With that in mind, of course, it is necessary to insure that opportunities to pay recognition to and take appropriate action to alleviate hardships that occur, region by region, should be maintained in one form or another. That doesn't mean there can't be one overall contract governing those matters which have universal application.

Frankly, I felt that time was needed. When we were looking at the legislation earlier this year, one of my fears was that we were attempting to push it forward much too vigorously, much too quickly, and that there wasn't going to be a sufficient time span for the working out of the detail that was so necessary if it were going to be accepted.

The one important part about this legislation, and the thing I am most concerned about, is that the legislation should gain acceptance. It won't work otherwise. There has to be a general and broad acceptance not only by the leadership of the trade unions and the leadership of industry, but there has to be a fairly broad acceptance by the rank and file at the level of both the smaller contractors who are affected by the industrial relations that go on at the larger level, and the rank and file in the trade unions who somehow feel they are not being represented adequately in terms of the expression of their concerns.

So I think that if this summer affords the process that will enable those people to become sufficiently familiar with the legislation; if the minister is open-minded enough to accept the recommendations that will come

forward, that do speak to the individual concerns region by region, of many people that are legitimate; if the minister recognizes that it won't be possible in the province of Ontario to move into an overall province-wide collective bargaining procedure that will quickly bring about single contracts governing a particular trade, that there will be a transitional period—and that transitional period will vary from trade to trade, in some instances, because of the great disparities between existing contracts; if she is prepared to recognize those things and allow for an adequate period of time for the transition to be made, helping along the way in whatever way we can to ease that transition—to make it possible to bring about, in the final analysis, a master contract that will affect the overall working conditions, and allowing for subsidiary contracts wherever they are required to pay particular heed to special problems—this process will ultimately work itself through and will be beneficial.

If, on the other hand, the ministry were to be bull-headed and to insist on more rigid contractual arrangements, then I suspect it would cause nothing but chaos throughout the industry, and we would be faced week after week with confrontation, both in the work place and here. I don't think that any of us who are in the business of politics, as I am and the minister is, would want that to be the end result of anything that we did.

I am particularly concerned. I think the bill as it now stands does not have the kind of universal acceptance that the minister's aides and advisers may have led her to believe it has. I believe there is substantial and justifiable concern out in the community, in the work place, on both sides. I believe that that concern will only be taken care of—will only be allayed, I suppose—if we are able to give an adequate period for consultation both now, as we go towards third reading through the committee process, and beyond, as the bill finally becomes the Act and the Act finally takes application over the people in the field.

I want to say to the minister that if we were required to vote on this bill and to make it a law, we would not be able to support it in its present form. But we also say to her in all fairness, that since she has been reasonable in making sure there will be adequate opportunity all summer and into the fall to have the bill heard throughout the province, and that people who are concerned will be able to travel reasonable distances and express their concerns, since that has happened we will reserve judgement, on that basis, on the final bill, which we think

will likely be considerably different from the bill we have before us; we hope it will be considerably different from the bill that we have before us.

At that point, on third reading, we may want to have further comment then on what may normally have been considered a debate on principle. Since, as I say, I suspect the principle will have changed at least to some degree between now and third reading—I think it will—if it has, then I think on third reading we may have some more comment to make. If the bill even at that point doesn't meet with what we judge to be in the best interests—and this is obviously a personal decision, a decision depending on from which side of the fence one views things—if the bill came forward in a condition that we didn't feel met the objectives that I mentioned to the minister, we would not be able to support it at that time.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few brief comments on the bill. I think it's important that a contribution of one individual who is no longer here be put on the record. That is a contribution of the former member for Sarnia, Mr. Bullbrook,

Hon. Mr. Kerr: It was put on the record and that is the contribution—

Mr. Roy: Yes, I'm putting it on. Don't start annoying me because I'll compare his contribution to the minister's and then he'll be in trouble.

Hon. Mr. Welch: If you had been here you would have heard the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil) put it on the record.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Albert, stop being so snarky.

Mr. Roy: It's my day. Monday is always that sort of a day.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague has put on the record that we are supporting the bill and has made a number of comments appreciating the fact that the bill will be studied during the interim period, but I think I should emphasize and put on the record the contributions made to this House in relation to this legislation by the former member for Sarnia, Mr. Bullbrook.

I can recall discussing at length with him and many of us who were in the caucus at that time joined in, the difficulties when the province-wide bargaining did not exist. He used to emphasize, and he has done so for a number of years, the difficulty that created. Of course we saw radical examples of it during the inflation years of 1973, 1974, 1975—during that period when there was what was commonly called "leap-frogging."

This was when a particular area would hold out for a particular amount of money and then other areas would take that as a base rate and proceed from that.

I can recall the former member for Sarnia commenting about the type of legislation that was necessary to avoid that sort of thing. He said it just was not logical that bargaining proceed in that fashion

Having talked as often as he did in the House about this situation, and having brought forward certain suggestions how leap-frogging could be avoided, I think this bill in some measure is a reflection of some of the ideas he brought forward. I'm not saying the ministry doesn't deserve some of the credit for it, but I think that certainly he made a contribution in that direction. I would hope that if this works out, as we're all hopeful it will in the long term, if the member for Sarnia had made no other contribution that would be a substantial contribution to the welfare of the province. I think that type of contribution on a bill such as this should be underlined and he should be congratulated and given full marks for, over a number of years, having brought forward this type of idea.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I too want to say I support the principle of this bill. There are a number of changes that should be made in the bill, but I have felt for a long time that larger bargaining units or areas would be effective and would resolve some of our disputes. There are those who might argue it concentrates your strength as well. I don't really think that would be the case. I think there are enough counter arguments in terms of being able to settle for an industry or trade and that you can make a good point for larger collective bargaining units and areas. I think that in itself makes a lot of sense.

But one of the things we have to be careful of in this bill as well is that when we're legislating legislation like this the intent is to resolve some of the disputes that exist, and in particular some of the problems that have existed in the construction field. I think if we can reduce some of the conflict there, it's going to be of benefit not only in the construction industry but to labour generally.

There's been some spillover through disputes in the construction field for a long time in the trade union movement, and I think for that reason the bill makes a lot of sense; but it also makes a lot of sense that the bill be one that does accomplish that. If we start out with a bill that further

splits the trade union movement right off the bat, or the construction unions, we're going to be in trouble; we're going to have a fight for X number of days, months, or the first two or three contracts, until they find out just how the thing's working. There are always disputes along the way.

[3:30]

It seems to me one or two reservations are held, not only by the group within the construction field that oppose this bill generally, but some of those who have taken a responsible look at the necessity of making some changes and who agree with the bill. However, one or two of the areas that all of them agree with is that it seems to be a little bit difficult to understand how we would legislate CLARA, or the construction association, but not legislate a certification that prevents double-breasted unionism; or a contractor being able to just set up another dummy company or non-union company and operate in other parts of the province and not be covered by a province-wide collective agreement that may be negotiated.

There are some reservations in the bill and some changes that should be looked at. Probably most of all those people who are directly involved should have a chance to sit down at public hearings and voice their arguments; and those that carry some weight may convince the ministry, I would hope, to make some changes. I don't think they would be major changes in the bill. If they can't convince the ministry of that then that is another matter.

I do think the idea of sending it out to committee is an excellent one, and thus sending it out for hearings in the province. I don't think it will hold the bill up that long. I think it can be done relatively quickly. We have to make an effort to understand the differences of opinion that do exist in the construction union field before we legislate what we think is the answer to some of the problems. In my own opinion, I want the bill, or the bill hopefully with a few changes, to go through, but we would be crazy if we don't first see if we can resolve some of the fears that are held out there, and fairly strongly held, by some of the groups in the construction field.

Hon. B. Stephenson: I am very pleased to find there is general acceptance of this legislation, which I might say is constructive legislation. It is important to realize that much of the discussion of the principle of the bill was carried on last December. At that time I acknowledged, with some profuse words as a matter of fact, the contribution

which had been made by the former hon. member for Sarnia to the development of this legislation.

I would have to say, as well, that the consultative process has been well and truly used in the development of this specific piece of legislation. It is as a result of the concerns expressed within this House and within the industry that the Franks commission was appointed. The Franks commission held hearings throughout the entire province consulting this specific segment, the commercial, institutional and industrial sector of the construction industry.

In addition to that kind of consultation, there was major consultation with representatives of both employers and employees in the many segments of the construction industry in the development of the draft legislation itself. So it has withstood already a good deal of the consultative process.

To be subjected to it once more is not a destructive thing. I think it will be a very worthwhile process, if it does nothing more than to allay some of the groundless fears which are being expressed out in the community by some of the groups to which this bill will apply.

I should say that it is not like the legislation in other provinces. There are major differences. Therefore, I do not foresee the kind of floundering which has occurred in a couple of other jurisdictions. It should—and I would agree—support the concept of increased Canadian autonomy; I think it does that. There have been some facts expressed that for certain of the unions the direction in province-wide bargaining would come from Washington. I don't believe we can afford to let that happen.

We have to make sure this bill is sufficiently strong to ensure that that happens as rarely as possible.

I think there does have to be some flexibility within this kind of legislation, and I really felt it was built into the legislation. The legislation is not written at this point so rigidly that modifications are not possible within the understanding of the regional differences which occur within the province of Ontario. I think the process of sending it to committee, which I most heartily support, will give time for examination of detail because, as the hon. members across the floor have said, this kind of legislation will only work if it does have general and fairly widespread acceptance.

I believe that that acceptance will be there and I believe the hearings which must be held in order to allow the input of both

union groups and employer groups throughout the province will provide us with the opportunity to inform all of those individuals about the error of their concerns, or to make minor modifications which may in fact help this bill.

I believe very strongly that this bill is absolutely essential if we are to begin to make real progress in labour relations in this specific segment of a very important sector of the industry of this province. I believe if indeed we can provide the leadership in this area that many other segments will indeed follow, perhaps voluntarily, and that we will begin to attack the kinds of problems which have led us in the past, I am afraid, down the garden path towards inflation and increasing disharmony in labour relations and labour-management relations which has done no one any good.

I believe this bill is to the benefit of all it affects directly and to the ultimate benefit of many other segments within the industrial sector of our economy. I am very pleased to know that both parties are going to approve it in principle.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for standing committee on resources development.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT

Hon. Mr. Norton moved second reading of Bill 23, An Act to provide for the Transfer of Services relating to Children.

Mrs. Campbell: Mr. Speaker, I rise to address myself to this bill and I regret to say that to me it is a mean little bill.

Having in mind the fact that we have had reports over years on the need to address ourselves to the matter of residential services for children, it is tragic to me that the government has only been able to move itself through the mechanics of transferring services to one ministry, and that it has not before us at this late date either an expressed philosophy or indeed an omnibus bill that would give to those of us with concern, some feeling that the ministry is in fact addressing itself to some guidelines covering both programs and care for children in our communities.

That, as seems so often to happen with this government, is something that will come along down the road, How far down the road, one can't possibly know, except that from experience one knows that it may or may not be within the life of this Parliament.

The minister's statement of Thursday—and I say it was somewhat, to me, a black Thursday—regarding the progress of the reorganization, was certainly in the light of the his-

tory of this chaos, at best disappointing and at worst indicative of the total chaos which seems still to continue.

When at last an operating or line ministry undertook to make changes that obviously could not be made by the secretariat, which totally failed in its function in this area, I had hoped there would be some direction that would be not too quick to allow for proper consideration, but where we would not see the new deputy in this area spending his time prancing around the country rather than looking to the problem in depth as it exists. If he had been going around the country looking at the various residential services it might have been better, but instead it would seem that he was simply going around to meet with the municipal people and to try to assure the staff of their continuing function.

When we come to the organization which was provided to us by way of a chart, that reorganization speaks volumes. It would appear that the same people are running the show, with few exceptions—the same people who had so adroitly covered the Browndale situation and the true state of the group home situation in Ontario. For example, the unlicensed homes, the fire and safety problems. If you will remember, Mr. Speaker, nobody apparently knows how many of the numerous unlicensed homes are operating contrary to fire, health and safety regulations.

It is encouraging to see that the minister has chosen someone as able as His Honour Judge Thomson to bring this matter into focus. But I wonder what good it is to bring in someone like Judge Thomson, like Claude Chamberlain and other very able people, putting them at the top of the organizational chart without a total rationalization of the structure underneath. It does seem that the same set of empires continues to exist, albeit under one roof.

Having discussed the organization, I suppose we now see the reasons why the timetable would suggest that basic reforms are very far off indeed. I suppose it is characteristic of this government, as I said earlier, to get the mechanics sorted out and then if, perchance, some element of philosophy creeps in, it may do so in some subterranean fashion, and it will be a long time before we address ourselves to the total concern for children.

I think specifically of the references made by the minister to the children's committees. It is clear that the minister at this point has no idea of the composition of such committees. Perhaps we can expect that he will be prepared to accept Mr. Robarts' suggestion, at least for Metropolitan Toronto, al-

though honestly I would be saddened if we don't have something closer to the children than what is suggested in that report. However, the ability to delegate is present.

Certainly it would seem there is a battle shaping up over this question—not only between municipal officials and service providers, but within the government itself. When, for instance, under this legislation, will we see any rationalization of the wide range in per diems which we have frequently attacked and which the interministry report identifies as a serious issue? When, for instance, will we be permitted to have answers to the questions which have been on the order paper for so long? I suppose when someone feels that it is important to address oneself to something other than mechanics.

[3:45]

What is more, on the per diem issue, it is a major waste of money, and that is public money, without apparent advantage to children. Because when I use the word "waste" I do not for one moment resent any money that is spent to assist our young people, particularly those who are very troubled. When I say "waste", it is because the minister and no one else seem to have come to grips with the responsibility of government to look at the question of accountability—each and every day this government continues to allow the unsupported and unjustified flow of public money to continue without accountability, this government will stand condemned, having made no basic reform in this field at all. In this mean little bill there is still nothing.

On this issue of accountability, it shocks us to see so little recognition by the government of the need for immediate accountability both in program and financial terms. There would appear to be some tacit acceptance that children's committees will wring accountability from all the various service providers one way or another. But the minister seemed to indicate that initially at least—and we don't know in this government how long initially is—they will be looking again at mechanics and again at budgets.

I wonder when we will have the right to know what is going on in these various residential services, when we will have the right to have questions answered? Does the minister expect that once this bill passes—and of course we have to support it because it's the only way that we know to get the government to move another step—does the minister feel he must wait five years down the road before he can answer the question of accountability on these services? It's been some

years now since we've been asking the questions, and there has been no accountability by the government.

I recognize the fact that this is not deemed to be a major piece of legislation and one would certainly understand that it is not. I have expressed my concerns because I find so often that when I'm prepared to say okay, go ahead, get the thing in motion, for the second stage it's "hope deferred maketh the heart sick."

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise and join in this debate on the children's services bill. We do so with more than a certain amount of anxiety and apprehension, I want to tell you. We intend to support this bill on second reading, but we do so very reluctantly; and we are reluctant because we know this ministry so well.

The issue that we should probably address ourselves to in this debate is the competence of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to assume the new and enormous responsibilities which are vested in it by virtue of this bill.

It's not the first time the Ministry of Community and Social Services has made promises of major reforms in the social service area. It's not too long ago that this House approved The Developmental Services Act, which was said to be a major step in the transformation of not only services but the whole way that we, as a society, look after the mentally retarded. That was only three years ago, and here we are today once again being asked to trust the Ministry of Community and Social Services with an even more awesome and enormous set of responsibilities.

I want to say, in my remarks to this bill, that we need to learn from the lessons of what happened with The Developmental Services Act and the so-called reforms that were promised by the same ministry in 1974. We are not going to tolerate the same history of failure and incompetence with respect to children's services that has characterized the government's so-called reforms with respect to mental retardation.

I want to spend a few minutes, by way of illustration, to set out before you, Mr. Speaker, what in fact happened to those so-called reforms implemented so unsuccessfully by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, because they bear on the issue of the competence of this ministry to do what is assigned it by the present bill. That's why I want to raise it; it goes to the very heart of the matter. The very issue that we're debating is whether or not this ministry has the competence and the capacity to assume its new responsibilities.

If you will remember, Mr. Speaker, the original impetus for reforms of mental retardation came from the Williston report of 1971. Mr. Williston set out a series of ideals which were then adopted by government as policy. If I may just summarize them: "Society must provide each mentally retarded person with such assistance, protection, opportunity and shelter as will enable him to take his place as a contributing member of the community and assure him a decent standard of living so that he can walk through life with dignity. That stated idea became the basis of the ministry's normalization program.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, by way of reinforcement of that idea, Mr. Williston promised to set forward as a goal, a series of programs making available to the mentally retarded, patterns and conditions of every-day life that are as close as possible to the norms and patterns of the mainstream of society. It was in 1971 that that goal was stated. That goal was adopted as a major policy of reform to be implemented by this same ministry—the Ministry of Community and Social Services—in 1973. Now, after four years—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Your point of order?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I don't wish, in any way, to attempt to curtail the debate on this matter but it strikes me that it stretches one's imagination to see how this particular tack directs itself to the matter of the principle of his bill.

Mr. McClellan: Speaking to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I stated what the principle of the bill is, which is the assignment of new responsibilities to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It is my contention that it is absolutely germane to the question to establish the competence of this ministry to assume its new responsibilities. I intend to illustrate my concerns with respect to its competence by looking at the last major reform that this ministry assumed as recently as 1974. I don't want to dwell at extraordinary length on it, but the point is utterly essential.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I appreciate your comments on the point of order. I do recall that when you began your remarks I was on the verge of asking if you would keep your remarks within the principle of the bill. I would ask you to do so.

Mr. McClellan: I would like a ruling from you, Mr. Speaker, with respect to whether you agree that it is legitimate for me to address myself to the principle of this bill by the route of discussing the competence of this ministry to assume its new responsibilities, in the light of its recent history.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would like to suggest to the member that there could be some appropriateness to your comments. However, I don't feel that you should spend any great length of time on the competence of the ministry. You should refer directly to the principle.

Mr. McClellan: Again, I feel that that is the principle. Respecting your ruling, and even respecting the concerns of the minister, let me attempt to conclude that section of my remarks very quickly.

Seven years after the Williston report and three years after The Development Services Act was implemented, we are still as far away from any kind of a meaningful program that would bring about normal community living for the mentally retarded as we were in 1971. This ministry simply has failed, almost completely, to undertake those responsibilities assigned to it.

I can refer you, Mr. Speaker, to a study that was done by the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto in February 1977, which states categorically that the kinds of non-institutional services and facilities promised under those reforms have not been brought in. The ministry failed, almost completely, to achieve the goals that it had set out for itself in that series of reforms. We are justified in being apprehensive and profoundly nervous with respect to whether or not the ministry will succeed with these reforms on the basis of that monumental failure in the field of mental retardation.

With those remarks I will leave that subject, but I assure the minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, that I will pick these up again at his estimates debates in the fall and we will go in, chapter and verse, to the failure of the mental retardation program to achieve the goal of normal community living for the mentally retarded.

It's good to remember, for the purposes of this discussion, why it is that we are at this stage today. We are here in response to the report of the interministry committee on residential services, which gave one of the most scathing indictments of government policy and program that it is conceivable to write. These indictments were written, not by outside observers, but by the government's own senior administrators and officials across a number of ministries—some six ministries. The interministry report, having been suppressed since April, 1975, until December 16 of last year, gave an utter, damning indictment of this government's social development policy and of its social development programs.

It did not touch simply on children's services. It detailed critiques of virtually the

entire range of social service programs in this province.

To refresh your memory, Mr. Speaker, the interministry report documented in detail how the elderly in this province are victims of "wasteful competition," institutional gamesmanship, jockeying for clients. It describes the complete absence of standards with respect to senior citizens' care and incompatible ministry service philosophies. It describes how the elderly are pressured into institutions because of the lack of non-institutional alternatives.

[4:00]

It dealt in part of its subject matter with the services for children and youth; and that is the piece of that indictment that we are dealing with today in a very preliminary kind of way. Services for children and youth are described as—I am quoting—"a deeper maze of philosophies, funding varieties, staffing patterns, standards in supervision." They go on to tell how the placement of troubled kids in any of 10 separate bureaucratic systems is "purely a matter of chance." Needs have no place in the process of placing kids in this province at all.

As the member for St. George stated very aptly, we are dealing with what is a very mean little bill. It is a mean little bill indeed in terms of the enormity of the problems within the social service field.

The problems do not rest simply with services to children and youth, as the report of the interministry committee has clearly detailed. The shambles in social development policy in this province goes right across the board, from income maintenance to services to the elderly to services to the mentally retarded, and including services to families and young children. The government has before us a very small piece of the essential and needed reforms in social service policy.

We see this as a kind of an organizational clearing of the throat that is necessary before the real work of restructuring services to families and kids in this province can take place. As such we are prepared to support it, understanding clearly that this is seen as an essential Act that probably should have taken place years and years ago, and does not begin to deal with the guts of the matter. We have stated on many occasions that we are in favour of a policy of devolution—that it makes sense to us to try to put coherence of services back together at the local level.

We are in support of the general thrust of the minister's overall reform package, but we lament enormously that everything excepting this little bill that is before us today is

vague and ephemeral and still largely incoherent.

The minister has given us a timetable for the implementation of the essential—

Mrs. Campbell: Don't hold your breath.

Mr. McClellan: The member for St. George asked how long it might be before the Act, which we will pass today, gets translated into some concrete reorganization of services at the local community level—which is what it is all about—once this preliminary clearing of the throat has taken place.

The minister tabled in the House an implementation plan. I can't remember the date; it was only about a week and a half ago. It seems to me that buried among the bureaucratic gobbledygook and "plannerese" that characterized that largely incomprehensible document, I must say—and I am a planner quite familiar with "plannerese"—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I found it quite comprehensible. It might say something about the reader.

Mr. McClellan: —that the implementation timetable for the local children's services committees is, in my view after reading that largely incomprehensible document, 1982. I come to that conclusion by looking at the implementation plan on the third page of the minister's tabled statement. He describes how he intends to proceed with the children's services reforms.

It is good to remember that when the minister first announced his policy statement in April, he indicated that the local children's services committees would be in place by early 1978. That target was quickly abandoned in a flurry of hedging and backtracking and has resurfaced now in the implementation plan as the target date for the first pilot project April 1, 1978.

Unfortunately, these local children's community services committees, wherever they will be, will not be in full operation until 1981, according to the minister's own timetable. They will not assume complete and full responsibility until 1981 and that is clearly stated in the implementation plan.

And the clinker is, as far as I can tell from reading the material, no other committees will be established in the rest of the province. That is to say, the network of local children's services committees will not be implemented in other parts of the province, aside from the pilot project areas, until the one or two pilot programs have matured fully, which is 1981.

So we are talking then about an implementation timetable which takes us until 1982 before the machinery is even in place which

will begin to address itself to the shambles and chaos and scandal that is revealed in the interministry report. That is simply unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

We can accept that the ministry wishes to engage in a consultative process, that the ministry does not wish to impose arbitrarily a predetermined scheme or model upon the province. And we can accept that in a province as large and as varied as Ontario it makes sense that there be a number of models; that no single model is going to work equally in Metropolitan Toronto and in Thunder Bay and in Belleville; that there is obviously a need for flexibility in the kinds of structures that are adopted.

But we cannot accept that it should take five years—six years if you include 1977; eight years if you trace it back to the original publishing of the interministry report on residential services—to develop and implement child welfare reform. We are going to be stuck with the present state of chaos for an intolerably long period of time.

I think it is fair to say that ever since the tabling of the interministry report in 1976, the situation has deteriorated in the child welfare field. The Holland decision, which both myself and the member for St. George have spoken to repeatedly, in questioning, in the estimates debates and outside this House, has destabilized what was an already chaotic situation. The one element of that whole shambles which operated with a measure of coherence and served to provide a measure of co-ordination and direction—the court—has been stripped of its capacity to fill that role by the Holland decision and by the subsequent failure of the government to fill that vacuum in any sensible and coherent way. The situation is substantially worse as we stand here today than it was four or five months ago when it was described as a state of complete chaos.

Words fail, Mr. Speaker. One cannot simply describe adequately the degree of shambles in child welfare services as they were. We stand here today and say with complete validity that they are now worse and the government is offering us an implementation timetable which brings us to 1982 before we can hope to see a resolution of this shambles. Not to say anything about the other areas of disaster within the social development policy field—the services to the elderly, services to the mentally retarded, day care, income maintenance. Name the program and one is describing an area of catastrophe, administratively and philoso-

phically. One approaches a bill like this simply with a measure of rage and despair.

We have some specific concerns with respect to some details of the transfer. If you read the report of the interministry committee, Mr. Speaker, you will find, and perhaps be puzzled at the inordinate amount of print that is taken up with the funding quagmire, with the set of incompatible and nonsensical discrepancies in ways and means of funding various social service programs according to which ministry happens to be running them. There is no sense; no rhyme nor reason.

There is an appendix H in the interministerial report which sets out in all its lurid nonsense the variety of funding inconsistencies in government programs with respect to all categories of people. The fundamental incompatibility that the report addressed itself to and was not able to resolve was the incompatibility between programs funded on the welfare principle—all of the programs within the Ministry of Community and Social Services, for example—and those services funded on the insurance principle, on the basis of universal funding and universal access—virtually all of the programs currently under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health.

There is no doubt at all in my mind that those programs currently under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, regardless of whatever shortcomings they may have, are infinitely better than the programs that have been operating under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The most enormous problems in the child welfare field reside at present within the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It is accurate to say the question of funding is not irrelevant to the question of effectiveness and capacity of services to meet their stated goals.

We would be incredibly upset if the transfer of social services and children's services from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community and Social Services had the effect of introducing the welfare principle into services that are currently funded and made available on an insurance principle. By way of illustration, homes for the retarded; at present children are effectively barred from availing themselves of homes for the retarded because of the 20 per cent fee that parents are required to pay. That has simply resulted in a complete vacuum in adequate non-institutional residential services for kids.

One can trace that kind of thing out right across the board, from the elderly to whatever group at risk one wishes to choose.

When the government operates its programs on the basis of welfarism—which means selectivity based on income testing, and ultimately on the basis of a concept of services as being a matter of charity rather than as a matter of legal rights—one gets into, of necessity, the installation of a whole series of barriers to effective use and barriers to effective service delivery. When one insists that municipalities have to assume—

Hon. Mr. Norton: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, once again without wishing in any way to restrict the scope of the debate, it strikes me that there is, first of all, nothing in this bill that addresses itself to the question of the method of funding. Secondly, there is nothing in this bill at this time that would any way change the method of funding of any of the programs that are referred to in the bill. Therefore, I question whether or not the speaker is dealing with the matter of the principle of the bill.

[4:15]

Mr. McClellan: On the point of order, this is a very multiple bill. One of the things, for example, that it does is transfer the administration of The Children's Mental Health Centres Act from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

I am trying simply to raise the concern we have. Perhaps I have overdone it. I want to make the point that at present The Children's Mental Health Centres Act as administered by the Ministry of Health is operated on an insurance principle. I want to make sure that when the transfer takes place to Community and Social Services that this does not mean there will be a change from the insurance principle to a welfare principle without that matter coming explicitly before this House. Maybe I've dwelt on that excessively and in the course of my illustrative remarks have managed to goad the minister into pique. That was not my intent. My intent was simply to outline the concern.

Mr. Renwick: Of course you were in order on that occasion as you were on the former one.

Mr. McClellan: Yes, absolutely. I regret I have not been able to develop my concerns with respect to the capacity of this ministry as fully as I would have liked. As I said, I will save those remarks then for the estimates of this minister in the fall.

I will conclude by saying, as the member for St. George said, that we support this bill largely because we have no other recourse. We do not support it out of any enthusiasm.

Mr. Speaker, if you had understood and heard the wealth of my scathing denunciation of the competence of this ministry, you would understand why we have so little faith in the capacity of the ministry, excluding the present minister, which I am doing, and excluding as well his very excellent senior staff whom he has chosen. These remarks were not intended in any sense as a personal attack on the minister who is new to the ministry and who has come in with a stated commitment to undertake major reforms.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Thank you.

Mr. Roy: He's wet behind the ears.

Mr. McClellan: Whether he's wet behind the ears or not, we have to grant him the courtesy of an opportunity. I hope he understands how massive the task before him is, how singularly this ministry has failed in the past to achieve its own stated goals and how repeatedly this ministry, in the face of absolute failure to achieve its goals, has altered those goals, has abandoned those goals and imposed another set of objectives in response to failure.

And that history goes back. I've been a ministry watcher since 1964, since the inglorious days of Louis P. Cecile. I have watched this ministry since those hideous days of Louis P. Cecile.

Mr. Roy: And there's been no improvement in the ministry.

Mr. McClellan: I would say that the member for Ottawa East is correct. There has not been, until now, a substantial improvement in the capacity of that ministry to meet human needs. We will hope that things are going to be different, but there is nothing in the history of that ministry that would indicate things will be different.

I used to come down here every year when Louis P. Cecile was minister so that I could watch this House vote to reduce the salaries—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I wonder if the member could get back to the principle, please.

Mr. McClellan: I'm just making my concluding remarks, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are going further back into history than I care to respond to.

Mr. Walker: That is prior to your birth.

Mr. McClellan: We will support it reluctantly, not because there is anything in the history of this ministry that suggests capacity, but because we feel a constraint to give this minister an opportunity to achieve his stated goals, because we have a certain amount of approval of the senior staff that he has ap-

pointed—more than a certain amount—and because the structures he has established make a certain amount of sense.

I would say again, the timetable for implementation is too long. I would like the minister to understand that we have a profound appreciation that he may take as long as five years to bring these reforms about. That is going to be longer than the length of this Parliament; it is liable to be longer than the length of this minister's tenure in office, and the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz) is scurrying frantically in the back-benches with his eye on the front.

Mr. Conway: Oh, he will stay there for for a while.

Mr. McClellan: I would think the minister should, even out of basic self-protection, strive to move more quickly.

Finally, we are prepared to support his bill because we are in a minority situation, and because both parties on this side of the House share a determination to make this program work and to hold the minister and this government accountable for its objectives. I have more confidence in the ability of the reforms to take place within a minority situation than I have at any time in the past under the succession of bumbling incompetents who have occupied the current incumbent's spot. We will take that, I suppose, leap of faith, and promise to the minister through you, Mr. Speaker, to be a watchdog for the progress of these reforms with as much vigilance as we can command.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I share the concerns of my colleague that this administrative reform is not the complete answer to our problems in the child welfare field in this province. I think we should be very careful that we do not regard it as such and that the ministry carry on with solving the urgent and pressing problems and doesn't consider this an excuse for inaction on them.

The report of the interministry committee on residential services showed a very shocking situation in residential care in this province, and there are urgent needs for reform in that area in particular. I think we have to clear away the tangle of bureaucracy that has allowed us to develop such a wide variety of programs for residential services. I understand there are 23 different programs, all with different standards, different means of funding, and different tests as to who qualifies and so on. This sort of chaos is what we hope this bill will cure, but we can't wait five years for the cure of many of the problems that have been created by this bureaucracy and this administrative tangle.

I would just like to suggest a couple of very key areas where I think the minister should be moving faster and perhaps looking to fairly immediate solutions rather than this long timetable. One is the question of payment for children who are ordered by courts into residential care facilities. As we know since recent court decisions, that area has been thrown into some confusion and the municipalities are refusing to carry the burden for children who are in some residential care homes. I think that question has to be solved immediately.

Another area that needs some immediate attention is the wide variety of payments that are made to different kinds of group homes under the different ministries that have been operating them in the past. There have been three ministries providing group homes—the Ministry of Correctional Services, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, all with very different rates of funding, different standards, different contractual arrangements.

As a result, a lot of the group homes have not been able to develop proper staff training programs because some of them have been completely inadequately funded. They have not even been able to comply with the employment standards legislation with regard to the hours of work and the conditions for their employees.

It's really because the various ministries have not funded them adequately that they have been unable to provide proper working conditions and proper wages to enable the staff to develop a real career in this kind of work. As a result, the children have probably suffered, although a lot of dedicated people have certainly contributed their services to these homes at very low wages and worked very long hours.

That's another area that I think the minister should look at immediately—to rationalize those payments and to see that they are adequate for the kind of services that they're expected to provide. It seems to me that in the past, the welfare of the children has come last and that the bureaucracy and the saving of money by the ministry and the restraint programs have come first. I hope this bill will turn around the thrust of the legislation and that the welfare of the children will come first.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I will try to keep my remarks brief, but at the outset I would like to assure those of faint heart on the other side who have expressed so many grave reservations with respect to the "mean little bill", as it was referred to in the mean little comments by the hon. member for St. George.

Mrs. Campbell: Mean little comments, my foot.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I might add, Mr. Speaker, that those comments became less noticeable as her speech proceeded. We are approaching this amalgamation of children's services within the province with what I believe to be, on my own part and on the part of my staff and this government, courage and commitment and determination. I wonder if the hon. member for St. George really comprehends the magnitude of the task that we have undertaken—

Mrs. Campbell: Yes, yes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —and I wonder if she has taken the trouble to look at the experience in other jurisdictions and realizes that within the last couple of months or three months, we have proceeded further than they have in a period of five years in many other jurisdictions.

Mrs. Campbell: But you were so slow starting.

Mr. McClellan: You're so far behind.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is of some solace, I suppose, that the hon. members have found it difficult to be as critical of the present as they have found it easy to develop a scenario of the historical perspective. But it is something I don't choose to respond to, frankly. I will try to direct myself to the comments at hand.

The reference to my prancing around the countryside was, I suspect, based upon—I can't believe that the hon. member does not understand that if one is going to consult—and it wasn't just with municipal officials—that it does require some travelling about the province to meet with people and to consult with them—

Mrs. Campbell: I didn't say "prancing."

Hon. Mr. Norton: —and I think that the use of the words "prancing around the countryside" as applied to the particular official to whom she directed them, were really unnecessary. I'm sure she understands what the purpose of that was and she has seen some of the results of it in terms of the report that was submitted with the package that was referred to her and other members in the past couple of weeks.

I admit that this is just the first step in the rationalization process. That is all that this bill is, in itself, intended to accomplish. It is a first step. I understand the magnitude of the path that lies ahead of us, but I also understand that it is essential, if we are to succeed, that we proceed in a manner which is going to carry with us and the people who

are involved in serving children in this province, at all levels.

[4:30]

Mrs. Campbell: We should have had it before the last election.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the hon. member had not participated in thrusting us into an election campaign I might have had more time to engage in that consultation process myself.

Mr. Gaunt: I am glad you are smiling when you say that.

Mr. Conway: The \$6 million members are thumping it up on the back benches.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That was a fateful Thursday night when the hon. member had to vote against this government.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Norton: With respect to the question of standards, which were raised by the hon. member for St. George—and she also made mention of her concern about the fact that there were so few new people. First of all may I say that some of the old people are not as bad as they are painted, I think, by the hon. member of the opposition.

Mrs. Campbell: Try getting information from them.

Hon. Mr. Norton: But, in addition to that I would like to point out specifically in the area of standards, we have a new person by the name of Michael Ozerkevich, whose prime responsibility is and whose experience in other jurisdictions has been in the work of development of standards, for just such services as we're engaged in delivering.

I want to make it clear that those are areas in which we share concerns with the hon. member. I think that if she were prepared to give just a little more credit for the efforts that we are making the situation wouldn't sound quite so bleak as she has attempted to portray it this afternoon.

Financial accountability is another item with which we are very concerned, but I'm sure that she also understands that we cannot proceed on all fronts at the same time and be finished as of the end of this week. It is not an easy task, but it is one which I assure her we're approaching with determination. We will see it through to its subsequent phases.

As to the timing concerns expressed by the hon. member for Bellwoods, I'm not sure where he gets his dates in speaking of 1982.

Mr. McClellan: From your own material.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I don't see that date anywhere in our own material. I do see that

as early as 1978 we will be implementing projects—or pilot projects, if you wish—across the province. I did not say anywhere there would be one or two. We do not know for sure how many we'll be able to place in operation as of April 1, 1978.

Subsequent to April, 1979, we will then proceed with the implementation of others across the province. There's nothing in there that I have seen, or that I'm aware of, that suggested the date of 1982 as the implementation date for the local committees.

Mr. McClellan: Give us the date then.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course, I'll point out it's folly to get into the act of trying to predict something even that far down the line. The target dates that we have, as the member can see from the information that was provided to him in the implementation plan, is that in early 1979 we will be in the second phase of the development of the committees that were put in place in April, 1978. Immediately following that, we will be in a position, hopefully, to proceed with the implementation on a broader scale.

Mr. McClellan: By 1979?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would hope that it would be sometime during 1979. If the member thinks he is going to pin me down to a specific date he's not, because it's folly to even attempt that. But I would hope we could proceed with that during 1979. I don't expect they would all be in place during that year. But to try to do it precipitately, without giving the models that are being developed an opportunity to work and to be subject to careful scrutiny, seems to me to be very shortsighted. We must be careful as we proceed, because the services and the system of delivery of services that we develop in consultation with the communities is, undoubtedly, going to be a system that we will have to live with for some time. It will have a tremendous impact upon the lives of the children whom we seek to serve. I am sure, if the members think about it, they would not try to push us into a situation where we proceed so quickly that we make unnecessary errors in the course of the implementation.

I think the timing that has been developed and proposed is very realistic. During that time we also have begun development of the omnibus legislation. I will be introducing an amendment in committee to change the name of this bill because inadvertently the name that was inserted was the name that we intend to use for the omnibus legislation when it is introduced.

We realize that that is the place in which the more detailed and complex questions of

standards and details with respect to the services will have to be dealt with. That is something that requires a greater amount of time than has this first phase, although I wouldn't want members to underestimate the amount of time that has been required to make the necessary transfers in terms of budgets and staff. This involves something like 3,000 staff transfers. That is no mean task, even though it may be a mean little bill—it represents a tremendous amount of work and competent work on the part of some very competent staff people.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of order, since there is some dispute between myself and the minister with respect to his stated implementation timetable, I would like to direct the minister's attention to page eight of his statement to the House on Thursday, June 30, where he says: "The stage six committees will not be established until the pilot projects have assumed full responsibility for service delivery in their areas," and he very clearly indicates in the first paragraph that it will take two years before they begin to review budgets. The implication is that it will take a third year before they assume full responsibility. So extrapolating from his own remarks, I concluded that the pilot projects would not be in a position to assume full responsibility until late 1981, which gives us then an implementation timetable for fully effective local children's services committees across the province of 1982.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to respond very briefly, if the member looks at the implementation plan and the dates that are set out on that sheet, it indicates that the second stage of the—

Mr. McClellan: Yes, I did. I am not trying to play games with you.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, and I don't think much is to be accomplished by trying to figure out a date here in an exchange across the House.

Mr. McClellan: I want to know when it is going to be in place.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would like to know precisely too, but I don't happen to be clairvoyant. I would suggest that a reasonable objective is some time during the year 1979 when we will be developing them across the province. I am not suggesting they will all be in place in 1979 by any means, and I think that subject to any further conversations perhaps outside the House that the member would like to have about it, that's all that I am able to devote to that at this point in time. I am not sure that it accomplishes anything in the context of this legislation.

I don't think I have much more to add to this than just to reassert that this is a matter we are approaching with a strong commitment and with a determination to see the matter through. I am very proud of what the staff in my ministry have accomplished in a relatively short period of time, so that we can at least, as of July 1 of this year, say that we have accomplished the transfer at the provincial level of children's services under a common ministry. We have therefore opened up the opportunity to work towards the standardization of everything from financing to the development of better province-wide standards. The question as to whether this is the most appropriate ministry or not, I leave that with the hon. members opposite. I am confident that my staff and I are firm in our commitment to seeing this through.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT

House in committee on Bill 23, An Act to provide for the Transfer of Services relating to Children.

On section 1:

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I raised our concerns with the minister during debate on second reading. I don't want to raise them again, except to say that we would have an enormous problem supporting this bill if the bill involved a change from an insurance principle for funding children's mental health centres to a welfare principle. I would like an assurance from the minister that before such a major change in government funding policy takes place, it will not take place within the orbit of this bill, but that separate legislation will be brought before this House which can be fully debated.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can certainly assure the hon. member that nothing is changed by this bill at the present time. I would not wish to give him any binding commitment with respect to what the ultimate rationalisation of the funding might be, because that obviously is one of the matters that we are looking into. I can assure you that as we proceed toward a rationalisation of the funding, I would welcome any input that the hon. members opposite have. But clearly, that is one of the tasks that we have to approach as a ministry, because the funding is so disparate across the various programs at the present time that cannot continue indefinitely.

Mrs. Campbell: Just on the point of the financing, we are taking the position that this will come back to us for discussion. Perhaps you might allay some of the concerns in this

caucus if you would undertake to ensure that before we rise for the summer vacation we do have answers to some of those questions of funding that we have been asking for months. This would then assist us in believing that we would have some input into the financing as it is developed by your ministry.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not sure that I will be able to give the hon. member the information she requests before the House rises for the summer. The discussions are still in progress, and in fact, they are in progress this week with court officials and with some municipal officials with respect to that very question of financing, that she refers to. I will not be able to give her any further information until such time as I know what the outcome of those are going to be.

Mrs. Campbell: As a result of the answer, do I take it the minister is consulting court officials with reference to the material for which we have asked consistently for at least a year with reference to Browndale?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't referring to Browndale at all. I thought that the hon. member was referring to the question of the placement of children by the courts and the funding of that particular program.

Mrs. Campbell: Then perhaps if the minister understands the question now, he might be in a position to give us some assurance that we will have the answers by tomorrow, since under our standing orders, if we were to be sitting here Wednesday—I believe that even under the misinterpretation of the rules the minister would have been required to answer by Wednesday the questions which have been on the order paper.

[4:45]

It is, Mr. Chairman, because of these discrepancies, because the very same people who have not been giving us answers over the years are still involved, presumably, with developing in some measure the funding for this ministry, that we have serious concern. I would hope the minister would understand that. Those questions should have been answered months ago and they're only here again as, in effect, new questions because of the new session. And if the ministry is still unable to answer those questions, then I want some assurance as to how we're going to get input when you're developing the total question of financing of services for your ministry. I would like an answer, Mr. Chairman.

I understand that the minister was going to propose an amendment which comes, I believe, before section 1 of this bill.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, in response to the issue of questions, I presume that the hon. member is referring to the questions which on the order paper are directed to the Ministry of Health. It was my understanding that those questions were answered by the Minister of Health in the information tabled the other day, or just a matter of a few days ago. I'll check with you afterwards, but that was my understanding—that he had in fact tabled answers to those questions in the House last week.

Now beyond that I'm not sure what the thrust of the question is. If there is further information required, please redirect the question.

Mrs. Campbell: I suppose not to prolong it, I would just point out to the minister the questions were addressed to the Minister of Health, because the questions related to his ministry. But in view of the fact that I assume that all of his staff has been seconded to this ministry, I don't know who he'd have left to answer the questions. Neither do I know who in the new ministry, or in the new function of this ministry, is capable of answering them, since they haven't been capable of answering them in the long months before.

All I want to know is are we going to get these answers so that we can then believe we're going to have some input into the whole question of financing these services under the composite ministry?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I will check with the Minister of Health because I thought that the answers had been tabled. I wonder if the hon. member is certain that they have not.

Mrs. Campbell: I am certain they have not.

Sections 1 and 2 agreed to.

On section 3:

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Hon. Mr. Norton moves that section 3 of the bill be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "3. The short title of this Act is The Children's Services Transfer Act, 1977."

Mrs. Campbell: Sounds like The Land Transfer Tax Act.

Motion agreed to.

Section 3 agreed to.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with a certain amendment and asked for leave to sit again.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 23, An Act to provide for the Transfer of Services relating to Children.

ESSEX COUNTY FRENCH-LANGUAGE
SECONDARY SCHOOL ACT

(continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 3, An Act to require the Essex County Board of Education to provide a French-language Secondary School.

Mr. Speaker: When we rose last in consideration of this bill the member for Carleton-Grenville was about to start his remarks. He may continue.

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, may I express my pleasure at representing the people of Carleton-Grenville in this Legislature. It is not without difficulty that I rise to support this bill—difficulty because of the strong traditions and feelings of the people of my riding towards their English culture. One need only reflect to this past weekend when I attended the Loyalist Day celebration at the town of Prescott. The people of my riding are indeed proud of their English heritage. Many of them, including myself, are descendants of the United Empire Loyalists who trekked long distances to the north shore of the St. Lawrence.

There is also difficulty because of the insensitive attitude of the federal government in the implementation of their bilingual program. The people have seen and experienced a waste of human and fiscal resources which I think was unnecessary. The designation of far too many positions in the federal civil service as bilingual have robbed many of my constituents of their future.

And a new problem has risen since November 15, 1976. The Parti Quebecois is not only acting through Bill 101, but through regulation enforcement and business transactions the people of eastern Ontario are being antagonized. There are real problems which we must deal with in the very near future. I have pointed out these concerns of my constituents. I think it important that the back bench, as well as the front bench of this government indicate our support of this bill. It is imperative that we in Ontario demonstrate and show leadership if Canada is to remain united.

The bill before us goes far beyond providing bricks and mortar for a French-language school in Essex county. We are, in fact, en-

gaging two major political realities of our time, namely the concern felt everywhere that local issues be determined as much as possible by local governments, and the accompanying concern that the provincial governments ensure that the province's constitutional obligations and responsibilities to all the people are not ignored and impugned by the local political process.

The bill before us is a stark reminder of how these two realities may be joined in stalemated conflict over a question fundamental to local sentiment and interest, but challenging to the validity of a profound provincial responsibility. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, one would be hard pressed to find a more hope-rendering example of how Canadian federalism should and can be made to work when a provincial government chooses to recognize the responsibilities entrusted to it explicitly and implicitly under the terms of our constitution. One is saddened that this bill is necessary, but rejoices that a solution is at hand in our constitution, and by virtue of the resource and courage of this government to ensure that the French-speaking Canadians of Essex county may have access to a French secondary school.

The problem of separating the local and provincial responsibilities has never been easy, and in today's increasingly homogeneous society, where there are fewer distinctions than there were even 20 years ago, the task has become much more complex. Indeed, if the issues provoking conflict between local and provincial jurisdictions were categorized one would find that in most cases there are very sound arguments on both sides.

Since becoming involved in the work of local government in Rideau township, and particularly since succeeding the Hon. Donald R. Irvine as member for Carleton-Grenville, I have come to know and understand the anxieties and frustration felt by many of my constituents over the erosion of the local political process and its gradual loss of autonomy to regional and provincial jurisdiction. There can be no mistake as to the emergence of a new sense of community within all areas of my constituency.

The operations and responsibilities of multi-tiered government must more adequately accommodate local autonomy. Certainly, the jurisdictions of government must take one another more into account than they have in the past. The instance of stalemate, to which this bill is addressed, is but one of these conflicts. However, it occupies a category of its own. We all know that the local authority, the Essex County Board of Education, has the power to remedy the plight of French-

speaking citizens in that county. That community wants to, but is unable to, send its children to a French-language school. We know that our provincial government has done everything within its power to encourage that board to act. It is obvious, then, that the local legislative process has exhausted itself without providing a remedy to these citizens.

In the absence of the local authority to legislate, there is activated a greater constitutional and jurisdictional responsibility which the provincial government bears explicitly for education and implicitly for the protection of minorities. Where one process ends in stalemate, on a question of such entrenched importance, the safeguard provided for in our constitution becomes operative at the choice of the provincial government. If it were not made operative, Mr. Speaker, we would invite the stain on our body politics as in the social inequities of the Manitoba school question, or as in Bill 101, as it now stands in the Quebec assembly. That path is the way of racism, not the civilized tolerance that constitutes the chief patrimony of our history. This government rejects it out of hand.

Essex county's problems, Mr. Speaker, are not peculiar to Essex county. My constituency of Carleton-Granville makes up, in part, the old historical cultural frontier between Quebec and Ontario. Our local record on language rights is not perfect, but our two school boards, the Carleton and Ottawa boards of education, have managed to go a substantial way in improving that record. Their progress has not been easy and their decisions to implement more French-language curriculum have not always been right. But they tried.

The measure of success they have enjoyed is attributable to their recognizing that language is the only means open to a people to preserve its culture, whether English or French. If we cherish our English-Canadian culture and heritage, as we should do, we will not only know why our language must be important to us, but we will also understand why French-speaking Canadians take the same view of their language. We will appreciate, too, why Franco-Ontarians, wherever they are concentrated in large enough numbers, should have access to schooling in their parent tongue, as we have.

We must continue to encourage, on a voluntary basis, each cultural group to learn the other's language. This can be done without shoving another's language down anyone's throat, as has been done in the federal civil service. Of course, the provincial government cannot legislate attitudes, nor should it try. But, we are the only constitutional guarantors of our national responsibilities in the field of

language, education and culture. I am happy, Mr. Speaker, to speak to this bill and to be associated with a government ready to exercise that guarantee.

Mr. Roy: I think this is one of the more important debates that I have had occasion to participate in since my first election back in 1971. I think it's extremely significant that at the time we in Ontario are debating a bill such as this, in the federal House there is a debate going on regarding the question of national unity, and in the Quebec Legislature there is discussion on Bill 1 which has been withdrawn and replaced by Bill 101. In that House they are discussing entrenching some of the rights of the majority in that province and, to some measure, trying to retract some of the rights of the English-speaking minority in that province. We know the concern that that is causing, not only in the province of Quebec, but across the country.

[5:00]

So, it's extremely significant that at a time when one thing is going on in the province of Quebec, that we in this province, through this type of legislation—and I intend to say something about the method that was used on this legislation—are entrenching, or at least legislating a principle for a specific area and assisting a minority in an area which has been fighting for so long for a right that's been basically accepted in so many other areas of this province and across this country.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, after listening to the member for Carleton-Grenville I congratulate that member for the stand that he's taking in his support of the bill. I'm extremely pleased. I was extremely pleased, first of all, that he was able to succeed in his nominating convention over the other character who was running against him. I'll not repeat his name here, but we know who we're talking about. I think his winning the nomination certainly was quite an improvement. I shudder to think what would have happened if his opponent in that particular race—I'm talking about the Conservative nomination now—had been successful.

Mr. Rotenberg: We are talking about the other, I thought you were talking about the election.

Mr. Roy: Well, you come to eastern Ontario and you'll know what I'm talking about.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the member even now, and I don't want in any way to denigrate his predecessor, the Hon. Don-

ald Irvine, and the approach he took in this House, but I was listening to what the member had to say. It appears to me that it takes a considerable amount of courage for that member to stand in this House and support this bill knowing that, I suppose, unanimous consent would be difficult in your area on this type of legislation. I know the difficulties that the member has in his riding. But I think he's showing—and I've talked to him before privately about this—basically what we as Canadians must show when we get into areas of this nature, whether it's language minorities, religion or other—leadership. That's what's going to be required, Mr. Speaker, in the years to follow. It's a question of leadership.

We cannot allow radicals, Mr. Speaker—and we have them on both sides—whether it be in the province of Quebec, whether we're talking about the separatists or we're talking about people, to oppose certain basic rights for certain minority groups. The time has long passed that we let a minority of people stall progress or impede what the majority fervently believes in and what this country is all about.

I feel that this debate is Ontario's contribution to the national unity debate, and I can't emphasize again how significant it is that federally, in Quebec, in Ontario, things are going on, that are going to have a significant impact in the long term on the unity of this country.

Mr. Speaker, in a non-partisan way, and I want to approach this debate in as non-partisan a way as possible, I want to pay tribute to the people of Windsor-Essex, and pay tribute to the Franco-Ontarian minority in that area of the province. Their struggle has been long, its been difficult and at times it's been extremely disappointing.

Can the members just imagine, when one looks at this in an objective context, that these people were part of the founding peoples of this country; these people in Windsor-Essex are not overnight guests, they're not people who have just come along and intend to move out when things get rough or if the country should separate, or something of this nature. These people were part of building what this country's about. And the minister, through some measure in his speech, has referred to the history of the Franco-Ontarian community in that area of the province.

One has to pay tribute to their tenacity, to the fact that they were not prepared to give up and were prepared to continue to struggle. If I may say so, I think a lot of

the rights obtained by the Franco-Ontarian community in this province are due largely to their own initiative, their tenacity and their dedication to the preservation of their language and culture at the same time as contributing to the national entity of this country and at the same time as being proud to be Canadian. But they were prepared to do this.

What they have obtained, what the people of Windsor-Essex have obtained, is not so much due to the initiative of government. I get annoyed about this sometimes when I hear government, and especially the people on the other side, say, "Well, you know, we've been awfully kind. We've given this. We've given that."

The government has not really given anything to them, it has been pressured into it. That's what's got to change in this country. We've got to do it by way of initiative, by way of leadership and not always through pressure and through delays of this nature.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to these people and congratulate them on finally—and maybe I'm being premature even to offer congratulations, because that school is far from being built and that school is far from being administered. I'm concerned about the future of that school as well. But nevertheless I think that it's significant that a bill will pass in this House which will again underline and accentuate the importance of the rights of that minority.

Je voudrais vous dire, Monsieur l'orateur, si je peux parler un peu en français, que je crois qu'il est extrêmement important que la minorité franco-ontarienne dans la région de Windsor-Essex reçoive nos félicitations.

Je crois qu'il est important qu'on souligne ici durant un débat aussi important que celui-ci le fait que les franco-ontariens n'ont pas lâché et qu'ils ont fait preuve et qu'ils vont être fiers et leurs enfants vont être fiers d'eux pour la lutte et la bataille et l'acharnement qu'ils ont démontré dans la lutte de Windsor-Essex.

Monsieur l'orateur je ne peux m'asseoir sans les féliciter et leur dire: ils ont vaincu parce qu'ils n'ont pas lâché.

C'est un exemple pour tous les franco-ontariens la lutte très très difficile qu'ils ont eue dans la région de Windsor-Essex; je crois qu'il est important Monsieur l'orateur de les féliciter, de dire à ces gens-là qu'ils ont obtenu quelque chose à cause de cet acharnement. S'ils ont obtenu quelque chose, c'est parce qu'ils n'ont pas lâché.

La lutte a été longue. Je regarde ici un éditorial dans le Droit du 10 décembre 1971

où on donne un événement après l'autre, où sur toute mesure objective on aurait pu être découragé, on aurait pu perdre l'espoir. Mais ces gens-là n'ont pas lâché. Même dans des épreuves extrêmement difficiles.

Je me rappelle quand on a publié un tract, je crois que cela fait maintenant cinq ou six mois et des accusations criminelles ont été déposées contre certains individus. Ces gens-là tout de même, sans se décourager, ont continué la lutte, et aussi cet après-midi, Monsieur l'orateur, on discute la victoire de cette lutte, ce fameux bill.

I think the role of governments in these disputes is important. I want to say to the minister I compliment the ministry on bringing forward this bill. I want to say to the minister I have read as much as I could of the speech at the time that he introduced the bill—I think that was back in April 1977. I thought it was an excellent speech. The minister went through the history of the Franco-Ontarian community in Windsor-Essex—in fact, the history of the francophone community in this province—and he enumerated the long struggle.

I want to say to the minister that I thought it was an excellent outline of the problem, of the frustrations and, finally, of the different disappointments that the community in Windsor-Essex had to go through before we finally had to go through this type of legislation. But, having congratulated him, I want to say to the minister that I felt, and I still feel—and I said it in 1973 and I'm saying it again now—that I don't think this bill would have been necessary had we done things right in the first place.

Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe the minister's right and there was no way of avoiding this. But I still feel that had he accepted suggestions that we made back then, some of the suggestions of the Symons commission report, this type of legislation would not have been necessary.

I'm really sad when I consider all the things that have gone on in Windsor-Essex and that things have reached this point that it is necessary to bring forward this type of legislation.

I look, first of all, Mr. Speaker, at the division that this type of conflict causes in a community. We went through it in Sturgeon Falls in 1971. If you recall, the Symons commission was created in 1971 because of the problems in Sturgeon Falls.

We went through it in Cornwall in 1972-1973. We saw the type of division that it creates in a community.

This is why we got the Symons commission report. This is why he put forward certain suggestions and recommendations to avoid this type of conflict. Because of the whole issue this is the saddest part of all.

You have a community which has lived together—minorities and the majority, the people have lived together for centuries—and yet you get an issue like this where sides are taken and you're splitting the community. I saw it in Cornwall. I saw it in Sturgeon Falls.

It's so obvious in Windsor-Essex that people feel they must take sides—friends across the fence or across the way—because of this particular issue. There's a draught that comes between people. People, having spoken publicly on this, wonder what the results may be towards their friends, towards even relatives and so forth. I think that this is just the type of thing that we should avoid and this is what Symons was talking about in his report.

When things get as bad, for instance, as when hate literature was circulated some time ago and criminal charges were laid, I thought when I was reading this that whether it was the English who were putting this out or whether it was the French, either way it had to be a pretty desperate move. Whatever the motive for putting forward this type of hate literature it was pretty desperate. That gives you an example of how desperate people were.

When I review the events such as these I have to stand here in the House and say at one time the anger would have been more aggressive. But frankly, Mr. Speaker, I speak more out of sadness than anger when I review some of the events, such as Windsor-Essex, that are taking place and are really ripping this country apart.

I can recall, just a year ago, the dispute over the use of French in the air over the province of Quebec. How divisive that was. I can recall, prior to that time, discussions about Bill 22 and, latterly, about Bill 1, or Bill 101 or whatever it might be called.

We can talk about some of the events after November 15, but these are things that we cannot allow to fester for any period of time. These are things that just tear this country apart. Very often these are things that are allowed to happen because there's a certain minority of individuals on both sides who, in fact, gained the upper hand on this. The majority very often is silent. It doesn't take a position.

This is why it's so important to look at the role of government which brings us to a bill such as this. I look at the role of government in this case and I think the role of government is important. I go back to 1971 and look at that time to a speech made by the hon. Premier (Mr. Davis). He was the newly elected leader of the Conservative Party and that was just before the election in October 1971. If you read his speech at that time, Mr. Speaker, he went on for pages about his bilingualism policy for this province. If there's any document which frustrates a Franco-Ontarian community more than any other is when they take out this document and wave it and say: "Here's what we were promised then."

[5:15]

Six years later the promises made in the field of education, in the field of health, in the field of government services, in the field of courts, and so on, were exactly that—promises. And it's sad to say this, but I think this is the type of thing that government has to avoid. The Franco-Ontarian community is united at this time. Promises are no longer good enough.

I look at some of the government policies. I look at some of the comments, Mr. Speaker, made during the election by the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Brunelle). I participated in an hour's debate with that member and I found it sad that one who is a member of the Franco-Ontarian community understood so little of what the hopes and what the necessities are of that community today.

When he was asked what progress we have made, he took out his credit cards and said they were bilingual. Well, Mr. Speaker, we have gone past that stage. The survival of a people is more important than just having bilingual cheques or bilingual credit cards. I am reading from the *Globe and Mail* now but I can remember—I was sitting across from him during the debate—when he said—and he was talking about the headline, "Can't Legislate French Rights," Brunelle Says,"—"French-Canadian rights in Ontario are gradually being introduced by the Progressive Conservative government as a matter of policy and it would be useless to guarantee them through legislation."

Well, have you ever heard such idiocy? What are we doing here all the time passing legislation if we are not guaranteeing one right or another through legislation? He says the legislation would be useless and he goes on to say: "It is not necessary. The Franco-Ontarians will have all possible rights."

And again he is confused. You don't have a right if you don't have legislation to back

it up, but he keeps talking about rights. He should be using the word "privilege," I suppose. "But we will do it gradually where it is needed. It would be useless where there is one or two per cent of the population that is francophone. I do not believe it's necessary."

Well, he's right of course, if he is talking about one or two per cent francophone in a particular area, but that's not what we're talking about, Mr. Speaker.

In an area of basic rights, there is the question of schools. And you look at the assimilation rate of the Franco-Ontarian community. For an instance, I turn to Windsor-Essex. Look at the tables there which indicate that in an area like Essex we are down to 3.9 per cent of Franco-Ontarians who use their own language. As assimilation takes place, gradually but methodically across this province, you know this is what we are trying to avoid and this is why it's necessary to have certain rights.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, the francophone community across this province is united on one thing—that we have had it with "privileges." What is important is rights. That's why I get annoyed sometimes in this House when I hear the Attorney General saying that to legislate certain rights in the legal field would be window-dressing.

I get pretty annoyed about something like this because as much as we may be francophone, we want to fight for this country. How can we go into Quebec and say, "I think we are concerned about your Bill 101 which you are imposing on the anglophone minority," if at the same time there is a law in our books here which says, "You are prohibited from using your language in the courts"?

The Attorney General says it is window-dressing. This is why, Mr. Speaker, we have to change our attitude here. I come back at the role of government in this situation. We went through this experience in Sturgeon Falls, we went through it in Cornwall, and finally we had the Symons report.

The recommendations of the report—which was dated February 17, 1972—were finally passed through this House. Of course, they were passed back in 1973 under a Conservative majority government, and some of the suggestions that we made at that time were not accepted. I pointed out to the minister at that time that it was important that the Languages of Instruction Commission, the commission that was created to arbitrate a problem between the school board and the French-language advisory committee, have its decision be binding.

At that point, we were starting to face difficult decisions. In other words, by 1972-73, in all areas of this province, basically there were no problems, the schools were operating, and the Franco-Ontarian community were sending their kids to school. No problems, things were going well.

That is what is sad about this type of dispute. It is just like an airplane crash. Nobody talks about the millions of passengers who get home safely; they always talk about the plane that crashed, or the one that got hijacked. Just like this situation, there are hundreds of examples of where schools were created in this province, where the parents are pleased, where things are working out. These aren't the things that are going to make the headlines. It's going to be the one at Sturgeon Falls, or the one in Cornwall, or the one in Essex. But, unfortunately, that's the type of environment and the type of society we live in. That's why we must avoid it. That's why Symons made certain recommendations at that time.

I had a long discussion in 1973 with the minister about a bill that he was bringing forward at that time, I think it was Bill 180 or Bill 181, to amend The Education Act. I said to him at that point that the part I found extremely frustrating or unsatisfactory in the bill was the section that dealt with the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario. I say to the minister that he has not followed the recommendations of Symons, because what he is basically doing again is going back to mediation.

The Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario is not what I suggested to the minister that Symons had in mind. Somewhere along the way, should local autonomy fail, and we agree with local autonomy, if people can't solve their problem—and when it becomes obvious that they cannot, when there is a conflict—mediation is not going to solve it. Somebody has to make a decision.

I said to the minister at that point that it was important, that in the area where we were having conflict we were going to continue having difficult situations across the province. For instance, after Windsor-Essex, any other situation we may have in this province is going to be difficult because we have gone through the areas where it is relatively easy, where goodwill exists in a community, and where the francophone minority is of sufficiently substantial number to have their views put forward and accepted by the majority. The other areas are going to be difficult.

This is why Symons, in 1973, made the proposal dealing with the Languages of In-

struction Commission. Unfortunately, they were not accepted by the minister. I'll just read what Symons had to say in the recommendation that he put forward at that time. He said: "If such a procedure does not produce a settlement, the commission shall, within 30 days of notice by both the committee and the board, prepare its decision on the matter in question, which shall be final, unless appeal to the Minister of Education within 30 days." Unfortunately, that was not accepted and the proposed role of the Languages of Instruction Commission was not accepted by the board. Now, here we are, having to pass legislation.

I would hope that we have learned through these mistakes and that the minister would give serious consideration to accepting the bill that we put forward last week, a bill which, in our opinion, would solve that sort of problem. The minister says he doesn't think it will work. But I say to the minister it is strange that he takes the attitude that this particular law will not work, when day in and day out we are passing legislation on the premise that it will be followed. I don't see why it shouldn't be followed in this case.

I can recall the great argument dealing with seatbelts. Everybody was saying, "Oh well, you can't enforce it." Well, we passed the legislation and we know that this year we have saved 200 lives because of the seatbelt legislation. So, I say, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we have learned from our mistakes and that we would change.

I continue to look at the role of the government. I just wonder, when I look at the various problems here, whether it was a wise decision back in 1976, when the minister decided to cut the funds from 95 per cent to 77 per cent.

When I look at that particular decision I say to the minister he didn't have to give them an excuse down there. Any excuse that was given for stalling or changing their minds may well have been a valid one. But the point that was important was that we not give them that sort of excuse. I find it ironic that we cut the amount of moneys that we were sending down there and now we're back into a situation where we're going to fund the whole thing again. Or we're going to fund at the same rate, I'm told by my colleague from Windsor. So, was that decision necessary?

The argument that I put forward dealing with the necessity of taking away the permissive part of that legislation, as we call it, is extremely important. I read an editorial from the *Globe and Mail* of March 25, 1977. It states: "That is where the trouble has always lain. The province's legislation should never

have been permissive. That only invites a squabble with all the ugliness of this one. The legislation should be amended to make it mandatory for a school board to provide a French-language high school when the local demand for it is sufficient to make one viable."

So, Mr. Speaker, I would sincerely hope for the future that we could avoid this type of conflict by changing the legislation. I say again and I emphasize again to the minister, other situations will crop up across the province and other situations which we are facing are going to be extremely difficult. I think it's high time that we avoided this type of conflict. We've had enough bitterness, not only in Windsor-Essex, but in Cornwall and Sturgeon Falls.

The minister referred in his speech to the history in this province of Franco-Ontarians, and I think it's important again to emphasize what some of my colleagues here have emphasized, that we're talking about a very basic right. We're not talking about people who have come into a province, have imposed themselves and are asking for a special tax break for something that they don't deserve. I can hardly think of an example which would follow just what I said, but in any event we're talking about people who have made a contribution to this country, to this province, to that area since the turn of the century. And what they're asking for, very simply, is an opportunity to educate their children in French.

You know, Mr. Speaker, one must understand what this country's about. This debate cannot be segregated unto itself. It must be looked at in the national context. This is one of the reasons, of course, that we feel, the government feels, all of us here feel, that we have to pass this type of legislation. It's taken on a context of national proportions which have for all intents and purposes muddled any local frustration.

So what's this country about, Mr. Speaker? You've got English provinces. You've got Quebec, your French province. You've got the union together. You've got the federal government which is supposed to serve them in both languages. It sounds neat enough when you're building a country on that particular basis. There's one problem though, and it is that you've got minorities in both areas. Just as the English minority in the province of Quebec are Quebecers and have contributed to that province, the Franco-Ontarians in this province have made a contribution here as well. They're not overnight guests. They're people who are Ontarians. They're proud to be exactly that and they want to stay here.

They're asking for something that is extremely basic.

It becomes exceedingly difficult for us in this province, or for the leadership in this province, or for the government in this province to comment about the rights of the minority in the province of Quebec when we look at the way we've treated the Franco-Ontarian community in this province.

Mr. Speaker, apart from the basic rights, apart from the fact that it's from a basic point of view that they're entitled to the legislation of their rights, in the national context there is nothing that helps the strength of this country or this province as much as a viable Franco-Ontarian community.

[5:30]

One must understand what Levesque and these separatists are talking about. One of my colleagues from the NDP was saying if Quebec wants to separate then we should talk to Quebecers. There is a basic difference when we are talking about talking to Quebec. We are not talking about talking to the separatists. They have made up their minds and no matter what argument one brings forward they are not going to change. But the majority in the province still has an open mind on this. And those are the people we have to talk to.

But the whole thesis of Levesque's argument is that the nation for the French in this country is the province of Quebec. He says that the only viable nation is the province of Quebec. And so his argument, the thesis, is that if you have a viable community elsewhere in the province of Quebec you undermine his whole argument.

What I am trying to point out, and I have said this in this House many times, is that for those people who feel that in giving certain rights to the Franco-Ontarian community we are giving them something they don't deserve, for those anglophones who feel that maybe we are going too far, it is really in their best interests.

For those who believe in the strength and the unity of this country, it is in their best interests to have a viable Franco-Ontarian community so that when Levesque tries to tell me that I am a dead duck, that I have no business in this province, that I should be with him in the province of Quebec. I am proud to stand here and say no, we have a viable community here. We are surviving. We are not dead ducks. We don't believe that the only way I will survive, that my children can go to school, or can keep their language and culture, is to move into the province of Quebec.

I believe that. But I need some help. I think it is important that we put forward some of these views, and not all of us here understand that basic right. Mr. Speaker, as I walk through the corridors of this Parliament, I often look at the pictures, and some of them date way back. There is one fellow at the top of the stairs by the name of Louis Hippolyte Lafontaine. I'd heard about him, but I often wondered what his picture was doing in this place. But knowing of his contribution to the history of this country, there is justification for it. But the other day I ran across something that he said. If I may, Mr. Speaker, just read to you what he said on September 13, 1842:

"Placés par l'Acte d'Union dans une situation exceptionnelle d'infériorité, si nous devons succomber, nous succomberons au moins en nous faisant respecter."

What Lafontaine was saying on September 13, 1842, was simply this: "We French, placed in a situation of exceptional inferiority by this Union Act, if we are going to fall, if we are going to be assimilated, we are going to do it by being respected."

Then he went on to say; "It is my duty to maintain this character of respect. Even with people who use a strong hand, like Lord Sydenham." I must tell you I am not too sure who he is in the sphere of things—

Mr. Foulds: You are lucky.

Mr. Roy: Anyway he says it is his duty, if nothing else, as one who is French in this country, to respect their heritage, and not to tarnish the honour of his ancestors.

I think that is extremely important in a context of the national unity debate, Mr. Speaker.

Some of us—I think hopefully most of us in this House, in this province—are concerned about what is dividing this country. Those Franco-Ontarians in this province, Mr. Speaker, who are extremely anxious about what is going on find it awfully tough, as much as they want to, to go into the province of Quebec and say to them: "You are welcome in the rest of the country. Don't limit yourself to the province of Quebec. French-Canadians, this is all your country."

How can I argue with any sincerity, how can I be convincing to these people if they bring out examples where I am not respected in my own province? It's important that we remove some of these impediments. And as the discussion continues, it is so important that we emphasize the question of schools.

There has been a tremendous change going on in this country. But the rallying point for these minorities is no longer the church, but their school. They have survived because of their church for a number of centuries, but

the focal point is now their school. If you deny them their school, Mr. Speaker, you are basically denying them their existence, their survival. And that is why the fights, whether it be in Cornwall, Sturgeon Falls or others, have been so bitter. And this is why it's important that we pass legislation to avoid this type of situation.

As the dispute goes on and the debate goes on, a lot of people like to stand up and say, "We're proud to be Canadians and we are going to fight against those who want to divide this country," and things of this nature. Being a Canadian is not only going to parades on July 1, or saying it publicly on various occasions, at various meetings and so on. It's going to be important; we've had it too easy in this country.

It's ironic—and I'm sorry for taking so long—but I can't help but think we are fighting in this country about two of the major languages in the world. I look at some other countries—for instance, in Russia there are something like about 15 different dialects; even in India they speak something like 20 dialects. I could name you federation after federation where they have that sort of problem. We have an opportunity in this country to benefit from two of the major languages and cultural groups that exist in the world, yet we are fighting over it.

People are talking about "shoving French" or "shoving English" down somebody's throat. I get frustrated. I just can't understand what the fight is all about.

I suppose that if this country does split up sometime, our children will look back on it and say: "What the heck were they fighting about; what could they have been fighting about?" If some people were starving, or were being attacked, if there was violence, then I could understand it. That's why I emphasize to be a Canadian today is not only a matter of standing up, but it's a matter of giving leadership.

I don't want to be unduly harsh with certain people, but some people say some of the things Levesque is doing to the minority in the province of Quebec, or some of the aspirations that he is putting forth, are in fact anti-Canadian. And I agree. But at least Levesque doesn't kid anyone about it. He's got it up front. Where he's kidded the people, I suppose, is saying there was going to be a referendum when he won the election. Now, he's acting as though he's already won the referendum.

The fact is Levesque and his ministers, with impunity—that's what is so frustrating when you believe in the country—are saying that, logically, things are going to split up.

People consider this to be anti-Canadian. Well, I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, certain actions by certain people against certain minorities in this country border on the same thing. Because people who one day will stand up and say, "I am proud to be a Canadian" and talk about what can contribute to this country, at the same time derogate a particular minority because it's French-Canadian. Next time it's going to be the other minority, because this country is a country of minorities.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, what we are doing here is important. And what we are doing here, basically, is giving leadership. I want to participate in that. I'm concerned, because I look at some of the difficulties. I was talking earlier about some of the things that this government did. And I want to say to the minister that it was unfortunate he didn't pass this legislation before the election.

That's another thing. Why did this thing have to go through the whole election where it was again a divisive force? But you know, I have some sympathy. I don't agree with some of my colleagues and the position they are going to take on this bill, but I have some sympathy and I think it could have been avoided. But I look to the future. Some people say—you know, some of my separatist colleagues in the province of Quebec—I suppose the difference between a French-Canadian separatist and a federalist is one has his hopes on the future and the other one just keeps looking at the past. I look at the future, but I want to say this, Mr. Speaker, in looking at the future I think there are some major things that we can do in this province. I want to participate in these things and I say this is a start. But, let's not stop there.

We've had the situation exist. I can recall the spirit of '67. Remember when everything was working out well in 1967? Then, when the threat seemed to be removed, we went back to our regular complacent selves. We've got to work at this country. I think we've got a country that's worthwhile saving, but let's work at it.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, together I think we should look to the future. But it's no longer good enough to pontificate and just make promises, we've really got to give leadership. We need legislation and this is why I'm supporting this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, in speaking on this bill, I would first like to begin by giving it a new name that would be much more appropriate and applicable to this particular situation. The name that I suggest for the bill is an act to cover up the blunders in

Essex county of the Minister of Education. I think the bill should be named this way because I feel the evidence indicates a complete mishandling of the whole situation by this government, and in particular the Minister of Education.

I believe the French community has been asking for a homogeneous school for French-language students since approximately 1968. Various surveys and studies have proven beyond any doubt that a school was needed. The Essex county board and the Windsor Board of Education met a few years back—I believe it was back in 1974—to see how best the two boards together could meet the need of the French students. These meetings led to a formal agreement between the Essex county board and the Windsor board whereby Windsor would purchase education from the county for a minimum of 125 French-language students in the proposed new school. I was party to that agreement, when I was on the board of education, I supported that agreement.

In the spring of 1975 this formal agreement was approved by the school boards. As well, the Essex county board approved construction of a French-language school at 95 per cent grant level from the provincial government. Then came this government's great restraint program where among other things, it lowered the rate of grant for construction of the new school from 95 per cent to 77 per cent, at which point the whole issue was reconsidered.

In April 1976, the Essex county board reconsidered the issue and a motion to continue with planning and construction of the school lost in a tie vote. I was at that meeting and without a doubt the major reason the school was defeated was because of the change in the rate of grant and the policy of restraint this government was advocating. The government then appointed a mediator in an effort to come up with a solution. Mr. McLeod, the mediator, recommended early this year that this school should be constructed.

For this government, however, I believe the most important date in the whole problem was November 15, 1976, the day a separatist government was elected in Quebec. The Minister of Education admitted as much earlier this year in a TV interview when he was asked if the PQ election had an influence on his decision to force construction of this school. In a very lengthy reply he said yes.

I think it is clear that the government was not serious about French-language education

in this province until this year. I think it is a shame that it took the election of a separatist government in Quebec to get Ontario moving. It is also a shame that this government has used Essex county in an effort to prove that it is now committed to French-language education. If this government was really serious, it would bring in a general bill to guarantee that situations like this never happen again in Ontario. I hope we see this kind of legislation in the fall.

[5:45]

To get back to the way in which this government has handled the situation, I should point out that it was not until one year after the Essex county board stopped planning of this school that the government raised the level of grants back to 95 per cent, even though my colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Bounsall) asked the minister to raise the grant level months before that. In the meantime, the issue became more and more emotional in Essex county to the point where we have a split that has never existed before and will take years to disappear. This is something the people of Essex county should never forgive this government for.

However, I believe, properly handled that this government could have had the school approved this spring at the new grant level, but the Minister of Education completely destroyed this chance when he told the Essex county board that if they did not approve the school he would bring in legislation to force it. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, more than one trustee stated he voted against the school for that very reason. Now, as a result of this government's mishandling of the situation, we are being asked to approve legislation that is very offensive to many of us, and for me the decision to support or not support the bill is very difficult.

I fully support the concept of a homogeneous school for French-language students in Essex county because I feel the need has been adequately proven, but I resent this bill because I know if the government had handled the situation properly it wouldn't be necessary.

I resent the fact that after 10 years of blunders the minister has cast himself as a protector of minority rights in Ontario, which is certainly not the case. I also resent the fact that in some parts of Canada, the people of Essex county are being viewed as bigots, and that is not the truth.

During the recent election I discussed this whole situation with many citizens in my riding, and with few exceptions the feeling

was that a French-language secondary school was acceptable; but they were confused, and understandably so. The handling of the situation by the government was confusing enough, but at the same time school enrolments are declining. Schools are being closed and the government is advocating restraint. However, I believe the mood of the people in Essex county was one of compromise. Some felt that a good form of compromise would be the use of an existing building.

At a glance, this seems to make sense. In 1970, the enrolment in Windsor secondary schools was 16,000. The projected enrolment for this September is 12,700, and in 1982 it is expected to be far less than 10,000 students. At present in Windsor, due to city-wide lowered enrolment, there is room for about another 1,000 students in existing secondary schools. So one can see there is room for students. However, in order to make use of the existing buildings and to make an entire school available, the boundaries for schools across the city would probably have to be adjusted, and that would present a serious problem for the Windsor Board of Education.

Another major problem with using existing facilities is the decision of who will run it. It is my impression that if the school is in the city of Windsor, and that's the only place there are existing buildings available, then the Windsor Board of Education would have to run it. They would be very reluctant to do so since most of the students will be coming from the county.

However, putting aside this problem of who would run the school, I think the major problem in using existing facilities is the fact that even though the Essex County Board of Education and the Windsor Board of Education have had over two months to explore and present an alternative to a brand new building, they have not done so; and this, I must say, disappoints me greatly. This has put me in a position of supporting the use of an existing building, but I have come to the conclusion that it is not feasible, partly because of the lack of action on the part of the Essex county board.

However, I do not blame the Essex county school board totally. I feel their lack of initiative is partly a feeling of, "what's the use."

I think most of the members are aware, that the Essex County Separate School Board did offer to build the school, but because of this government's refusal to extend grants this was not possible. I mention this because I think it is further proof that the people of Essex county believe, as much as anyone

else, in providing Ontario's French students with equal opportunities.

I want to finish by saying, once again, that I resent this bill having to come before the Legislature and I blame the government entirely. I believe very strongly that a school must be provided, and since there are no viable alternatives I shall not oppose this bill. I shall support it, but with great reluctance.

I should point out, however, that this bill may not solve the problem and that the life of this school may be very stormy. Here again, the government has to bear responsibility. For my part, I shall do everything possible to encourage the trustees of the Essex county school board to follow the legislation and to build the school on their own, and I will work toward making the school a success.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I must say that this is a rather difficult situation for myself. I have followed this problem in Essex since the minister got involved. I stayed out of it completely as long as it was in the hands of the board. I did not think it was my responsibility to make any pronouncements at the time the board was dealing with it because they were elected to deal with it.

It was only this spring the minister announced that he was bringing in legislation to force the building of the school. My first impression was that I could not support that; maybe it was because I was elected to municipal council, maybe it was because I was a reeve of a municipality for a number of years and I felt the decision that we made should be binding.

I find it very difficult too, since I'm obligated to vote against my party, and I must say that I am a Liberal and I intend to stay a Liberal.

I suppose that I may be more qualified to speak on this bill than most people think I am. My forefathers settled in this country many years ago. We've lived in the same area, that I'm aware of, for 175 years—maybe not quite that long but somewhere in that vicinity. My great grandfather, my grandfather and my father settled in the community that is predominantly the French part of the county. We have lived happily in that area all that time. I suppose we've assimilated some and some have been assimilated by others, and so forth in the family. Around our dining room table, when everyone's home, I guess we have the United Nations, they are from all races.

If you have followed the goings-on of the school board over this time, Mr. Speaker, they have been in very difficult situations at times. We want to learn French so that we

can speak French, but when you're raised in a school that doesn't give you any French, then of course you don't learn any French. I myself never had the opportunity of learning any French in school up to grade eight. We had it in grade nine, but I must say I took it for one year and found that my marks were not very high so I dropped it. I might say, though, that one of my favourite songs was a French song that I led our group in many times.

I'm just thinking of a bilingual school and I'm thinking of a gentleman who gave a position paper on French and on what we should have at the school in Essex county. There was a very well prepared speech made up by the former member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr) I guess it was a speech that was never given but when he came to Toronto on the week of, I think April 28 or 26, we intended to debate this bill and Mr. Burr, who was the member for Windsor-Riverside, had done a very thorough study on what we needed in Essex county in the way of a school. Being the scholar he is, he made a very thorough examination of the whole complex. His speech, in as much as it wasn't given in the Legislature, was published in a small monthly paper, the Tecumseh Tribune, with some documentation from the owner of the Tribune.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, the owner was from a very respected French family in the town of Tecumseh and St. Clair Beach, the Lacasse family who have carried on business in that community for years. Their father was a senator prior to his death in Ottawa. I think some of you may have heard of one of the Lacasse family, who has since passed on, who was a great designer of flags. He put them in his yard and made them for many people.

They are people highly respected in the community and their position on a school was not for a unilingual school, Mr. Speaker, it was actually what we would call a bilingual school, but French oriented.

Just to give you an idea of what they had in mind, I think it's important I read this part before we recess for dinner: "A bilingual complex should be open to more people. Thus the argument of separate facilities and extra costs could be largely demolished. The French-language students must go to school anyway. They must be provided for. A bilingual school proposal could be integrated in the board's overall construction plans without division and without the need of distinctly separate facilities. It could also provide a greater opportunity to more students to learn a second language."

"I would be willing to concede," and I am quoting here, Mr. Speaker, "that such a complex, since it would be the only one of its kind in the county should retain a French atmosphere and all those attending this particular type of school should be willing to take French to some measure, even if it was initially just an extension of oral French programs. Hopefully as the oral French programs became more firmly entrenched in those lower grades and down to kindergarten, we can, in an intelligent manner, over the years develop a truly bilingual institution, tailor-made to our area.

"Learning the French language, spoken by some 30 per cent of Canadians, should be:

1. of free choice; 2. should be a fun thing and not a matter of confrontation and devisement.

"It seems to me that we cannot develop goodwill by building a wall around us or by separating ourselves from the community. I strongly believe that the establishment of a bilingual complex established in good faith and with the tools at our disposal can meet the needs of our time and build a bridge of unity."

I will end the quote there, Mr. Speaker, and I may use parts of it later on, but it being 6 o'clock I will stop.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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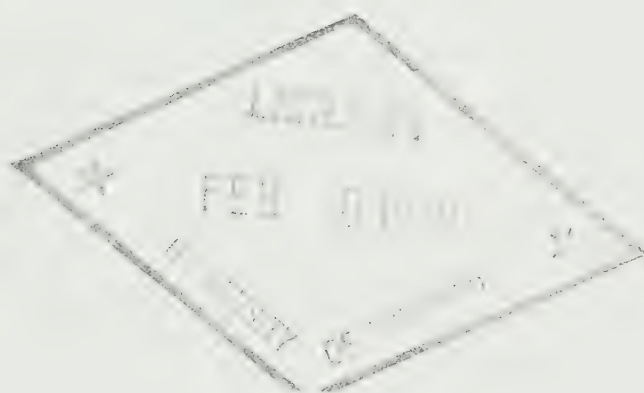
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No. 18

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament

Monday, July 11, 1977

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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Hansard subscription price is \$15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Printing Services Branch, Ministry of Government Services, 9th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, JULY 11, 1977

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ESSEX COUNTY FRENCH-LANGUAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL ACT (concluded)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 3, An Act to require the Essex County Board of Education to provide a French-language Secondary School.

Mr. Ruston: In speaking on this bill, and actually, I suppose, assuming what the outcome will be when we are finished debating it, one really wonders whether one should sit down and say it's not worth it. I was under the impression this country was formed, in Confederation, on a compromise method. Apparently, there is no compromising, I take it, with the minister (Mr. Wells) or the Premier (Mr. Davis), in any way or in any form whatsoever. But I still want to go on.

Perhaps I can first lead up to what problems the board had in coming to the conclusion it came to. Then I would like to dwell a little while on the problems of the bill as we have it now. As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, this bill is different from the one they brought in just prior to the election. It does contain three subsections that give the minister much more power to go ahead and do it on his own if the board does not act.

The problem we seem to have had in some areas is what will the enrolment of this school be? The other day—Friday, July 8—when the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Boun-sall) was speaking, I made a note in one place where he said they had a survey made in 1973 that indicated there would be 830 students. Then in February, 1975—I am sure these are the words he used—he said there would be an enrolment of 1,008 students. But the problem is that we don't seem to have those figures available from anyone in authority that I have been able to find.

To get an idea of what we are looking at, I did get hold of the director of education for the Essex county board and I asked him what enrolment he had in the two schools that now carry French classes. His letter is addressed to me and it said: "You

will find enclosed a copy of the enrolment in the French-language courses at Belle River District High School and the Sandwich secondary school as discussed this morning."

The Belle River District High School, which is the largest school in the district and which, I believe, has the largest enrolment in the county, and which is just seven miles from where I live, had a French-language enrolment for one credit in year one of 18. In year two there are 26; in year three, 23; in year four, 10; and in year five, 7. For two credits in year one there are 21; in year two, 32; in year three, 17; in year four, one; and none in year five, for a total of 71. The first one had a total of 84. For three credits in year one there are 39; year two, 21; year three, 51; and year four one, for a total of 76. For four credits, in year one there are 29; year two, three; and year three, seven, for a total of 39. For five credits, in year one there are six; year two, 10, and year three, one, for a total of 17. That is a total enrolment of 287 being supplied French-language instruction.

In Sandwich secondary school the figures are—and these words bother me a little. There are some French words I'm pretty good at, but these are a little difficult—français, niveau intermédiaire, year one, one class, 33 students; year two, one class, 21 students; français, cycle supérieur, year three, one class, 17 students; year four, one class 17 students; and français S46 (13) 1968, year five, one class, six students; for a total of 94 students. Of the 287 at Belle River, there are about 25 being bussed from the Anderson area, which is another part of the county.

I am reluctant to talk in this particular detail but what I want to get across to the members of this House is that they are voting on something on which I really don't think they know what they're voting. I know that the leaders of all three parties have come out and said that we need this school, and I'm willing to accept that. But what I want to get across to the members of this House is that the Essex County Board of Education is not and has not been breaking The Education Act. It has been abiding by the law in supplying French-language instruction. I think that

should be brought out, because I think it's very important.

On the other hand, not too long ago there was an article, *A Familiar Scenario for French School in the Windsor Star* of April 23 by Stephen Lint. It's actually on the Cornwall situation, comparing the school there. Some of the things that must be brought out in this are that in the Cornwall situation about 45 per cent of the students walk to school and apparently none of them travels much more than five miles by bus. In Essex county, no matter where the school is built, even if it's put in the central part of what we would classify as the heaviest French-speaking community, the students would still have to be bussed from at the most 25 to 30 miles, though a great many of them might only be bussed 10 or 12 miles.

Going by the enrolment they had in Cornwall and taking into account how many would go to the unilingual school, at one point he writes: "It seems reasonable to expect the Essex school could expect a maximum of 35 per cent of the bilingual grade eights from the city and county; that is the students we have in the elementary school system. Assuming the number of grade eight graduates remains constant and 35 per cent do go to the Essex school, the school could expect a total enrolment in grades nine to 13 inclusive, after five years of operation, of 400." You will recall that Bill 3 says we must build a school for 750. "If the percentage of grade 8 attending the Essex school was 25 per cent, the school's total enrolment after five years would be 300 pupils."

What the problem is there, of course, is that the farther the children have to ride on the bus, the farther they are taken away from some of their neighbours to another school. I am wondering what effect that will have on the overall attendance at the school. So these are the things that the board of education is faced with.

I also have a statement here from five members of the board of education. It says: "Whereas in section 255, paragraphs 2 and 4 of The Education Act, 1974, as amended in 1975, chapter 77, it states that, 'Written evidence be presented to a board that the number of French-speaking students who elect to be taught in the French language so warrants.' Then it says: 'Please be informed no written evidence has been presented to the undersigned trustees that a number of French-speaking students have elected to be taught in the French language in sufficient numbers, or any number, to justify the building of a French-language secondary school.'"

This is the problem that we as legislators are having to face. The board members should have been informed of this. Whether some of them were and some of them weren't, I don't know. Quite frankly, it is pretty hard to get all this information together. It concerns me—because I am the member from the area where the proposed school is to be built—that we are asking 125 members of the Legislature, who cover all of Ontario, to decide what should be done in Essex county. I would be very reluctant to vote on whether we should build a new bridge over some river down in eastern Ontario because the local council didn't want to build it; or a school in eastern Ontario, or the riding of the Minister for Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Handleman) as he is looking across at me. I am sure he wouldn't like me, if I was a member of the government, coming in and telling the people in his area, "I think you better have this building built here or we had better put a new bridge over that river." It is a bit of a problem when you look at what could happen if you carried this on a little further. So that is one of the difficulties facing school board members.

However, we can go back to 1975 when the board did vote to build the school.

"Eventually in 1975 after much lobbying and pressure on the part of the ministry and the promise of a 95 per cent grant for capital expenditures, the Essex county board voted to build a French-language high school." This was part of Mr. Burr's statement that he was going to give, and I think it is worthwhile reading into the record, Mr. Speaker. He mentioned one of the generals who knew how to win a victory but didn't know how to maintain his position, and that is what we are getting about here:

"The same might be said of the proponents of the French high school. Having won their campaign, the more militant members increased their demands or requests, asking for the addition of an auditorium at a cost of another \$500,000. When you realize that no other secondary school under the jurisdiction of the Essex county board has an auditorium you can appreciate how poor a move that was from the standpoint of public relations. Public opinion began to build against the school, and when the minister announced that the capital grant would be only 77 per cent instead of 95 per cent, the opposition increased. [8:15]

"At the board meeting in February, 1976, the leading opponent of the school project moved a motion that would end all planning and consideration of the French high school. Because some members still wanted

to explore alternatives, his motion was defeated 6-to-12. At this point, the leading proponent of the French school, apparently not content to enjoy his victory and unable to let well enough alone, made a totally unnecessary motion that the board proceed with the building of the school."

Just previously, two motions before, he made a motion to build it, which went 12 to six. But with this new vote, the vote was nine to nine that they proceed. When they already had a motion to build, I don't know why he needed the motion to proceed. But anyway, that motion was a tie vote, nine to nine; there are eighteen people on the board. So according to the board rules of procedure any motion that does not receive a majority is considered lost.

To continue the remarks prepared by Mr. Burr: "On this technicality the school project was halted, not as a result of bigotry but because of a procedural blunder. Defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory.

"Opposition to the building of the school continued to mount."

At about the same time, as you will recall, the then Minister of Health (Mr. F. S. Miller) made a statement that the ministry was closing some of the beds of a number of hospitals, and proposed closing River-view Hospital in Windsor. That's a chronic care hospital. So you see, that was what was happening along at that time. Having sat on the regulations committee for one year, which was a useless committee because we had no authority to really do anything, I see the problem created by the minister giving grants according to regulations, when they should be in the legislation. Because he can change them at his whim. And that is what he did, when he changed the grant from 95 per cent back to 77 per cent. He didn't have to check with the Legislature. He just passed a regulation through the executive council of the government, and changed the grants from 95 per cent to 77 per cent. So if you can just picture yourself sitting in the county board at a time like that, you can see the problems you would have with a situation like that.

At the same time, in an area where we talk about how many are going to attend the school, a Southam news reporter from Toronto was sent to Windsor to cover what he called the war between the English and the French. Well, there has never been any war between the English and French in Essex county because I have lived there all my life, that's 57 years, and I've never seen it. I'm sure that just shows you what the papers will print. Over the Essex County

High School, he discovered a variety of opinions and positions, but virtually no bigotry, to his surprise.

He interviewed most of the leading figures in the controversy. He travelled to Belle River High School. That's a large high school where he said there are almost 300 francophone students. His conclusion: no war, no hate, no bigotry. He had been entirely misled by the headlines in the metropolitan newspapers of Ontario and Quebec, and often fed to Quebec by the CBE French radio station and TV station in Windsor, probably bypassing other cities on the way. Incidentally, he had some difficulty locating Belle River High School francophones who expressed any enthusiasm for transferring to a new unilingual French high school.

Three weeks earlier, CBC Radio Toronto sent a woman reporter to Windsor on the same mission. She fully expected to file a report on animosity in Essex county. To her surprise, after interviewing many people, including the principal, she left without finding it.

It's very difficult for a board to make a decision under those circumstances. At the time the board decided to build, it made application to the village of St. Clair Beach, where it owned 25 or 30 acres of property. It paid \$130,000 for it. But then, when the board decided that it would build the school there and after it made a motion to build it, the village of St. Clair Beach passed a resolution that it would not change the zoning to school purposes because it did not want an all-French school there.

It wanted to have a bilingual school or something similar so that their children could walk to school rather than ride the bus all the way to Belle River, which is roughly eight or nine miles, because Belle River school was overcrowded. So then the board went out to obtain other property. They found the piece of property on what we call County Road 42, which was then known as Highway 2. They bought 42 acres for \$140,000.

It happens to be right in the very flight path of a new extended runway at the Windsor airport. I measured it on Saturday and I think it is one mile and eight tenths from where the planes will be touching down and taking off. The DC-9s go over Jefferson Boulevard, which is used as a thoroughfare. But when a new runway is built apparently to the south of the present one, that runway will extend past what we call Jefferson Boulevard which is about 1.8 miles from the property that they have purchased for the school.

So, on the news on Friday night, of course, this was all news, because there was an announcement made through Mr. Lang's office—I think on Friday afternoon last. And Mr. Beneteau, the chairman of the French-language advisory committee and a member of the board was quite concerned about this, which well he should be. What now are we going to do? The property that they own at St. Clair Beach is even, to some extent, in line with the present runway that is being used. It is in an area that's classed as a "noise cone."

What I'm trying to get across to the minister is that by passing this bill today and ordering the board in 30 days to hire an architect and start building a building, he is asking for exactly the impossible. They'll have no alternative but to say: "What are we going to do? You can do it yourself. We are not going to do it."

I'm sure they have no alternative because where are they going to get the property? Another thing is that the property they bought in Sandwich South township is not zoned for school purposes. It's zoned for agriculture. There is a sewage system in that area now; which thank goodness they can hook on to. But I'm trying to get across to the people here who vote on this that this is not the way to do this, especially for 30 days.

I would like to see, and I think reasonableness would swing somebody here, that at least we make this 90 days and give the board a chance to look around. They're going to throw up their hands in 30 days. Did anyone here ever try to buy 25 acres of land for a school, without knowing where it's zoned, where there's pipeline water, where there's sewage, or what was going to be done with it—and do it in 30 days? You're just giving them the impossible. It just isn't sound logic, and I don't think we as legislators should put them in that position.

I don't want to be wandering all around, Mr. Speaker, but there are certain things that concern me. I don't want to get into the idea of buildings yet. On the idea of a homogeneous school—we seem to get all the reports back in Windsor it was always unilingual, French school, and certain subjects would be taught in English because they were shop subjects or science or whatever it might be.

I called a Mr. Chenier in the ministry's office and I'm sure I wrote notes about our conversation. I was trying to grasp something as to the problems people are having with regard to bilingual schools, unilingual schools and homogeneous schools.

What brought me up to it was that I got a letter one day from a lady, a French-speaking Canadian, who was very concerned that I had said there were only 17 people taking five subjects in the Belle River High School, where we were supplying French instructions. She said: "I don't want to have my child taking five subjects, I want him taking only two or three. But I want him in a unilingual school where the administration and speech will be in French, so that he can retain it that way."

I told her my understanding was that they'd have to take at least five or six. I was under that impression. But Mr. Chenier said they may end up taking four or five in French, because the technical shop and science courses are in English, but the administration and the language carried on in the school would be French. What, in effect, the school ends up being is a bilingual school. It's a little confusing.

The other thing is, the Essex county board, when they agreed to build the school, passed a resolution that French instructions would be taken out of the present Belle River High School and the Sandwich secondary school. That means anyone who can grasp this French in a couple of subjects—if they were English-speaking, maybe, but took French in elementary school, which they have now in some of our elementary schools, both public and separate, but the public schools have been slow in getting it in and now, I think, are starting from grade three—they could not then go to the present high schools and take a couple of subjects in French. They would have to go to the homogeneous school. Whether they would be qualified—I've been told that they would not likely be qualified to go to the unilingual or homogeneous school.

These are the concerns that we have. I stopped in the other day to a lady's house. I won't mention her name but I had a call from her to see her about another matter, and as we finished discussing that subject I asked her a question.

Mr. Deans: What was the question?

Mr. Ruston: I said, "I know you are a very good French-speaking person. Could you tell me what is your opinion of having the French high school and what we call a unilingual school?"

Mr. Deans: And the answer?

Mr. Ruston: And she said, "In our home we have two children. We carry on all our conversations in the home in French. They take French in the elementary school. We want them to take mostly English in the

high school, so that when they go out in the world they will be able to get a job in Windsor, Toronto or Montreal because they will be fluent in both languages." Because, in their case they've carried it on in their home.

So there again, it's a very difficult situation—where a French-speaking Canadian family carried their language with them in Essex county up to this time and I'm sure will for a number of years because they keep it in their home—and that's the only way you're really going to keep it, I think. You can build schools but I have a feeling unless it's spoken in the home, it's going to be very difficult to maintain.

I mentioned the locations of what they have now. Now what are we going to do? Is the minister going to go down to Essex county or send his officials down and say, "Go and look up a piece of property that has a water line on it and perhaps an area where you can get hooked into a sanitary sewage system"? There are not many such areas outside the towns, the House can be sure of that.

Tecumseh, St. Clair Beach and Belle River and this part of Sandwich South just had theirs put in. Now the airport expansion has put a real mess in there because they intended to expand that area into residential to help pay for the sewage system. Now they're going to have an airport expansion so I don't know what we'll do there. Is the minister going to send his officials down there? What about Ontario Municipal Board approvals? Is he going to be able to bypass Ontario Municipal Board approvals or is he going to have to go through the routine of getting zoning changes and so forth for school purposes?

I'm asking these questions very seriously because I think there are real problems that can come up for whoever has to deal with them. My goodness, if there are 400 or 500 students that want the French language, then we can build a school for them or find one for them. I'm all in favour of it. But let's not go down and tell the Essex county board they've got to have a building started in 30 days because of the circumstances of the airport now. The minister is just asking for the impossible. Surely he's got to think of something else.

[8:30]

Suppose the minister decides to go ahead? Is he going to consult with the French-language advisory committee as to what he's going to build or is he going to set it up under what he classifies as what he thinks

a school should be? They have been meeting with the Essex County Board of Education. Sure, they've had some problems now and again, but that's to be expected in any discussions that take place or agreements to be made. None of them go smoothly all the time. That's something that the minister, I'm sure, is going to have to consider.

As far as other buildings being available, I mentioned to the minister one day about the teachers' college. Granted, I know he said: "It's being used for a teachers' college and we'll only have to build another building at the university." But if one considers today, with the airport announcement being made, I really think that he's not going to get a better spot than right there at the teachers' college. It's on E.C. Row, which will be a main thoroughfare, just off Dougall Road going in to the city. It's not as though it was right in downtown Windsor.

It's a building that was built in 1964 because I was at the opening of it when I was reeve for the township of Maidstone. I know that they had an official opening and the Minister of Education was there at the time. It's a building that is well suited to it. I have all the blueprints of it here. It's got a cafeteria. It's got a gym. It's got a courtyard and it's got all the offices necessary. It's got kitchen services and any number of rooms. The minister may have to add on a few rooms but that's certainly something he's going to have to think about under the circumstances now. Otherwise, he may be years planning something else.

The other thing is that it would take two years. Maybe this teachers' college could be done and ready by next September. I don't think he's going to get any building ready. But this is something that is an alternative. This year. It's impossible now, that's certain.

There's another alternative, or so I've been informed. I haven't looked at this building. It's the Redemption Fathers Building on Cousineau Road and Highway 3, near St. Clair College, which is definitely on the outskirts of the city. I think that was built somewhere around 1960. I'm not exactly positive of that date but it's around that time. Apparently it's not being used now to any great extent, and may be able to be purchased for that purpose.

I know there is a high school in Windsor that is being closed. St. Clair College is moving out of it. It's Patterson Collegiate. But the problem is that it's right downtown. There's traffic and the time involved getting to it. I know it has auditoriums, gyms, swimming pools and everything. I don't know the condition of the building or I don't think

I've ever been in it. If I was, it was 20 or 30 years ago. That's probably about the only other alternative.

I just think these are things that have made it very difficult for the board in the county to resolve the situation. The minister's cutting of the grants certainly has had some effect. He may say that didn't have anything to do with it. But it started to upset quite a few things. I think the Minister of Health probably started it all when he announced closing hospitals to cut back. I think that had a great deal to do with it.

I just feel I've been talking in vain here because I don't think the minister is very receptive. I just think he's making an awful mistake in passing a bill to order the school board to do something in 30 days under the circumstances that they're in. If I was on the board, under these circumstances, I would say: "Boy, if that's the case you'd better find it yourself." If I was on the board and this bill was passed under regular circumstances, I would go ahead. I wouldn't let the minister take over from me.

I certainly understand that the board, now being in such a bind, won't have much of an alternative. I think the minister has to give them at least 90 days to try to come up with some alternative.

The other alternative is to give this bill second reading and to appoint a select committee of this Legislature to report back here by October 15. I know he is shaking his head, "no," but it should report back here by October 15 with a recommendation—and they could do it.

They can go down to Windsor and have a public meeting and the minister will have both sides and everybody will stew and brew around, but they will also look over the situation. They will look over the alternatives and the sites and so forth, and come up with a recommendation.

He is asking here for a blank cheque. He is asking for 125 members—there are, maybe, 40 of them in the House, which is a very good attendance tonight considering the committee is going on, and it shows the importance that people put on this—but he is asking 125 people to make a decision that is impossible for somebody else to carry out. That is not fair to the Essex County Board of Education. That's absolutely not fair at all.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, up until a few moments ago, I was going to use this opportunity, which was the first one I have had, to congratulate the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Edighoffer) on being elected to that position and to wish him well in his almost impos-

sible task. As he has now left there, and as I probably won't get the chance again, perhaps you will convey that to him for me.

The debate on this bill, Mr. Speaker, has been somewhat unusual to this time. There has certainly been an unusual degree of agreement. It seems to be typical of this House on most issues that we all reach for every argument that we can get to refute the people in the other parties, and that we heckle one another at every opportunity.

But so far in this debate it has been to a very large extent harmonious, with a degree of agreement which is unusual in this House.

Of course, there have been some statements made that are highly critical of the government and others. The leader of the official opposition (Mr. S. Smith) on Friday, or at least one day last week, spoke about the bitterness and the controversy involved in this legislation, which requires that a French high school be built in the Essex area. He condemned the minister and the government for creating that bitterness and controversy, because he said they had procrastinated and wouldn't take a stand and I guess I share some of those views.

I would also point out that the bitterness and controversy has equally been due to the members of the official opposition who represent that area, not giving leadership or giving wrong leadership. Just this evening the member for Essex North—

Mr. Breithaupt: Don't start that one. Talk to your own candidate in the area, if that is a problem.

Mr. Swart: I will be coming to that in a minute, Mr. Speaker, but the member for Essex North stated, just after he rose to speak on this issue earlier today, that he had considered it—and I quote—"not my responsibility" to get involved in this issue until some time in the winter, or early spring. I suggest perhaps that is not good enough for those who have been elected to positions of leadership in a community—

Interjection.

Mr. Swart: —to stay out of an issue as important as this one is. It is perhaps of some significance that we find ourselves at this stage at this time, because not a single or solitary Liberal or Conservative candidate in the recent election down there took an unequivocal stand on the construction of this French high school. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, if I may be political—

Mr. Breithaupt: Don't be political, certainly not here. Can't have any politics—

Mr. Swart: —that I have never been so proud of the NDP, and I have some length

of history in the CCF and NDP, as I have been of our members in this House—

Mr. Mancini: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker, I believe I heard the hon. member for Welland-Thorold say there was not one Liberal or Conservative candidate who took a stand on this issue in the last provincial election. I wonder if the hon. member has really checked out the facts. If he had, he would not have been able to make that kind of a statement—

Mr. Renwick: "Unequivocal stand," he said.

Mr. Mancini: —and I am sorry to see that he has turned this into a very political debate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has made his point.

Mr. Swart: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I took the trouble to check it out and I stand by my exact words that none of them took an unequivocal stand in favour of the French school. I have never been so proud of the New Democratic Party, really, as I have in this issue.

Mr. Gaunt: It doesn't take much to stir pride in your breast.

Mr. Swart: I have never been so proud of anyone as I was of Michael Cassidy, back on January 29—

Mr. Breithaupt: Was he running in that area? There is one vote for Mike.

Mr. Swart: —the member for Ottawa Centre, who went to that area as the official spokesman of the NDP, and made these comments, and I quote from his speech:

"Ten years ago, the Conservative government made a commitment to French high schools in Ontario. Implementing that commitment has taken a tremendous toll of energy and time from the francophone community because the government leaned over backwards to accommodate anti-French local school boards. Classes taught in French were made mandatory whenever enough pupils wanted them, but French high schools were not. The Languages of Instruction Commission was established to resolve disputes between francophone parents and local school boards, but it had no teeth. Professor Tom Symons of Trent University became a sort of Mr. Fix-It who kept the whole structure from falling apart. The New Democratic Party believes this isn't good enough. We've come to the crunch in Windsor. Unless you believe that the Essex county board is going to change, the government must change the law and then take every action necessary to ensure that the law is obeyed."

Mr. McKessock: What did your local candidate say?

Mr. Swart: He went on to say, "As soon as the Legislature reopens, the NDP intends to present a bill that would ensure that the loophole is closed."

Mr. Conway: What did Fred Burr think of that?

Mr. Breithaupt: What did your local candidate say?

Mr. Swart: "The effect of our bill will be to ensure that the French high school in Essex county will be opened to serve your kids by September 1978. One way or another, I assure you, the law we propose will be effective."

Mr. McKessock: And what did your local candidate say?

Mr. Grossman: He didn't research it that much.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Swart: I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that that, in fact, was the turning point on this issue. Mr. Cassidy was speaking to a group of some 600 people, the Committee on Action for the Secondary French School, to which had been officially invited representatives of the Liberal and Conservative parties, who did not send members there to speak officially for their parties. I say the stand that he took there, on behalf of this party, provided the incentive, or maybe the threat—at least it was the initiative that caused the government to act.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege, I wish to inform the member that I attended that meeting but was not asked to speak.

Mr. Roy: Get your facts straight.

Mr. Grossman: He didn't research it that well either.

Mr. Swart: I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that that in any way contradicts the statement which I just made.

Mr. Roy: Get your facts straight.

Mr. Lewis: All parties were asked to send people to speak, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Roy: That is not what he said, he didn't say that.

Mr. Breithaupt: It wasn't what his local candidate said, either, but if he wants to go on that way, he can.

Mr. Rotenberg: Where were your members for Windsor?

Mr. Grossman: They were busy.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, as has been stated, all parties were asked officially to send speakers. It was the NDP which answered that request, and did send Michael Cassidy who made the firm statement there.

I was also never so proud of being a member of this party as when the member for Carleton East (Ms. Gigantes) spoke on this issue in late April. I recall there was not a single interjection from members of this House when she spoke in favour of it. I suggest that was the kind of speech, and I think most members will agree, which will be quoted in this House decades hence.

Also, I can't help but be exceedingly proud of the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Bounsall), who was unequivocal in his stand against all the opposition to the school down there. Because of taking a stand and standing up for what he believed, I think he captured something like 54 per cent of the vote. I think the important thing is that whether he got 54 per cent or 24 per cent he was prepared to take a stand on this issue. I suggest that it is the stand taken by this party that is one of the main reasons that we have this bill before us here today.

[8:45]

Mr. Breithaupt: That is not true either.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Dreamer.

Mr. Conway: Are you seconding Cassidy's nomination?

Mr. Swart: I would like to. Perhaps now, Mr. Speaker, I will be—

Mr. Breithaupt: What is the second prize? Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Welland-Thorold only.

Mr. Swart: I'm sure that would be the best thing for the other parties that could happen.

Mr. Roy: That is the only part of your speech I support.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I'm taking part in this debate because I'm sure, as we all agree—

Mr. Grossman: I don't like your speech.

Mr. Grande: You're speaking on this, Larry?

Mr. Swart: —this bill speaks to some pretty important and basic principles in our society at this time—like whether we're really interested in keeping Canada together and whether we mean to maintain the French language and culture in this province.

Of much less importance, I want to speak on this bill because, Mr. Speaker, I'm endeavouring without a great deal of success to learn French. J'ai suivi un cours en français aussi durant septembre dernier pour deux semaines—en janvier et en mars aussi. Je continue en septembre, mais c'est difficile à mon âge.

Mr. Maeck: Now you want us to educate you.

Mr. Rotenberg: You are almost as good as Diefenbaker.

Mr. Swart: It is also difficult, because the government of this province doesn't seem to be greatly concerned at this stage about whether the members of this House are able to speak the second language in this province. I'm not sure whether all members here know that although some years ago they promoted courses in French for the members of this House—I think there were some seven members who started to take those courses—that at this time the Board of Internal Economy won't even pay the fee—

Mr. Lewis: Did you say eternal or internal?

Mr. Swart: —won't even pay the fee for members of this House to attend a course in French.

I feel, too, that I have an obligation to speak on this bill because in my area we're a long way down the road in the operation of a French-language secondary school. I say that our experience in the city of Welland ought to allay any fears there are in Windsor or Essex or for that matter elsewhere in this province.

The crux of this bill, of the issue, is whether the French language and culture is going to be maintained in the Essex-Windsor area. Really, that's what the French secondary school means and nothing less than that. I think many of us at least would agree that if the French language and culture are to be maintained there or any place else in Ontario, each succeeding generation has to be raised in a French environment. The home is a big part of that. The church plays some part in it, although perhaps not as much as formerly. The caisse populaire plays a part, and I suggest that is one very important reason that we should have the new Act translated into the French language instead of only a summary of it.

But I guess most of all it is the school that determines whether a language and a culture are going to continue. You can't do it by French courses in anglophone secondary or elementary schools. I say very sincerely that those who oppose, or want to delay—and that's usually another way of opposing—the French school in Essex are wittingly or unwittingly trying to assure that the French language and the culture will die. It's no less than that if we don't get this French secondary school. I think it is important to recognize that.

It is important to recognize, too, that this bill does not shove French down anyone's

throat. The member for Essex North also said words to the effect that he understood that taking French should be a free choice, not one of confrontation or divisiveness. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that such free choice is not there unless we have that French school, and when that school is there then the people have the free choice. There is nothing shoved down anyone's throat, as has been said here a number of times. It is entirely optional whether the children go to that school, and it is not in any way being shoved down anyone's throat.

I want to deal very briefly with the argument put forward by those in opposition to the school that it will escalate costs. I checked very briefly, and granted it is only a sample of some of the areas where they have French secondary schools and some of the areas where they don't, but the costs do not appear to be any higher, or very little higher, where they have the French secondary schools.

Perhaps the best example of this is from my own area, where we have the French secondary school in the Niagara South Board of Education. To the north, in the northern half of the Niagara Peninsula, there is the Lincoln Board of Education, which does not have a French secondary school. The expenditures for secondary school students in those areas are \$1,768 per pupil in Niagara South and \$1,765 in Lincoln.

In Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, the expenditures there where they have their French school is \$1,816. In Leeds and Grenville, where they don't have a French secondary school, it is \$1,685.

In Sudbury, where they have a French secondary school, the expenditure is \$1,826. In the Lakehead, where they don't have it, it is \$1,877, or higher.

Although granted those figures only represent a few of the boards in this province, they are not selective and they have been picked just at random. Further, Mr. Speaker, I checked the equalized mill rate from some of the areas where they have French-language schools—Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry; Niagara South; Sudbury; Penetang. I also checked those where they don't have them—Lincoln, Waterloo, Middlesex and Thunder Bay. When I averaged out the equalized mill rate, believe it or not, I found they were identical. A coincidence, of course. But, it was 7.43 mills in the ones which have the French-language secondary schools and 7.43 where they don't have them. I think it can be said with some validity that the extra assistance given to the French secondary schools—and, for that matter to the French elementary schools—means that the cost to local tax-

payers does not increase merely because the French language is taught there.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the history of French-language schools in Welland proves that they are beneficial. They are not divisive, they don't increase local costs, and they are wholly acceptable. Perhaps it was because of this that the minister decided to appoint Mr. R. A. McLeod to do the study in the Essex-Windsor area. As he said, and I entirely agree, they couldn't have picked a better person.

Just briefly, to give you a little of the history of the French school there, the private French elementary school was established in the 1920s. In the early '30s it was taken into the public system without any real controversy. Then there was a large influx of people from Quebec in the late '30s and the early '40s. That one school grew into four elementary schools and a private French high school run by the Sacred Heart parish. There was a new private high school built in 1966. It was bought by the school board in 1968 and taken into the public school system. There was not, and I repeat there was not, a ripple of opposition to that when it was done. There was no objection from a single member of the school board. There was no objection from a single member of council and there wasn't even a letter to the editor opposing that when it was taken over and that high school put into the public system. Now there are approximately 1,300 in the French elementary schools and about 800 in the secondary, fully composite French school where they teach academic, technical and vocational subjects.

This school has been totally accepted, I suggest, because it is wholly desirable. There is a French library now in the school, open for adults and open on certain evenings, which is associated with the main Welland library. There is a tennis court there. There is a continuing course in French for adults and there are some 600 people enrolled now in that course. Teachers come from the other schools—not just from that board, but from other boards—to see what is taking place in that area. Other boards buy education, including the Lincoln board which has about 75 students in that French high school.

Even some of the students who go through the elementary anglophone schools, if they can pass the test, are switching to the French high school. I suggest it is working and working well. In our area some two years ago we had what we called a backlash committee formed in opposition to the bilingual district. I can say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the schools are so well accepted that that

backlash committee didn't even attack the French schools in that area.

The point I want to make in the Welland example is twofold. First, once it's there, it's acceptable. Secondly, with even such an asset to French language and French culture, it is still somewhat difficult to perpetuate it in by and large an anglophone community. The principal and the teachers in that school tell me that it is difficult. Sometimes, even though the students are being taught in the French language and even though there is almost a total French environment, they will lapse into the English language at noon hour and at other times. I point that out because I want to say as forcefully as I can that if we are going to maintain French language and the French culture even in an area where there is a fairly large percentage of francophones, we can do it by nothing less than having French elementary schools and French high schools.

In conclusion, let me say that the government in its delay and the opposition in its past waffling and its members' attitudes in Windsor have, I think, underestimated public opinion generally. I am convinced that the public of this province now at least are in favour of us proceeding with French education and the French high schools where there is a fairly substantial percentage of the population who are French-speaking. I suggest that in five or 10 years from now everyone will be asking down in the Windsor-Essex area what all the fuss was about. They will be saying that Windsor and Essex have a fuller life and are better communities because they have the French high school.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: It is with great enthusiasm that I rise to support Bill 3. At the outset, may I say I firmly believe that every Canadian, whether English- or French-speaking, should have equal opportunity to be educated in the language of his or her choice. I am happy to see that after many years of effort the Franco-Ontarian students of Essex county in Windsor will benefit from the same educational services that Franco-Ontarians enjoy in many other parts of the province, including my own riding of Cochrane North.

[9:00]

I am delighted that my wife and I were able to assist our four children to choose a language of instruction of their own choice. Kelly and Louis are attending Cité des Jeunes, a French-language high school in Kapuskasing, while Pierre and Suzanne are attending English-language high schools.

An editorial in the *Toronto Star* on April 22, 1977, suggests, "By treating its French-language-speaking minority fairly, Ontario has the opportunity to help persuade the people of Quebec they don't need to break up Canada to preserve their own society and culture." It goes on to say that Ontario must "demonstrate that the fate of the French minorities outside Quebec is not necessarily assimilation . . . we must show that the French fact is not merely acceptable, but a vital part of Ontario life."

There has been much misunderstanding over the aims of French instruction programs in the province of Ontario. It is trite to comment that the world is rapidly shrinking due to the increasing opportunity and indeed necessity to travel. Governments have to be aware of the need to assist in breaking down the traditional linguistic barriers. We could learn a lesson from the European community where the opportunity to absorb a second or even a third language is built into the educational system. By the age of 11, their children are benefiting from multi-language training. For instance, in addition to their own language in Germany, Portugal and Spain, they learn French and English; in Belgium, French and Dutch; in Switzerland, French, German and Italian, and in the Netherlands, English, French and German.

Too many Canadians still consider languages as obstacles to understanding and not, as many other countries on earth do, as opportunities to communicate with fellow human beings on a more intimate and satisfying level. It seems long past time when Canadians had a look at their linguistic good fortune in a world context. Any healthy English-French relationship in Canada must rest on the obvious fact that history has made us the beneficiaries of the two world languages. Believe it or not, half a billion people in the world use either English or French as their official language.

Tell anybody else in the world about our difficulties in sensibly developing our full linguistic heritage, and you will see smiles of disbelief. Ask any other person how much he would give to have one world language as his mother tongue. Ask anybody, except a Canadian or, I should add, an American, and you will find that knowing a second and, good heavens, even a third language is thought of as a marvellous advantage.

Let's not spend so much time persistently reassuring English Canadians that the incorporation of French into our heritage would do them no real harm. Instead, let's make them see the benefits that language acceptance can

bring to all Canadians. It is very important, in my view, that every child attending Ontario schools be given the opportunity to learn our country's two official languages. I find it most encouraging that the Ministry of Education is taking very positive steps to ensure that this opportunity will be offered to the students of this province. Such a policy will over the years promote greater regional, national and international understanding and awareness.

Mr. Roy: What took so long?

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: May I quote from the report of Mr. McLeod, the mediator in the Essex French-language school matter? "The place for both English and French to learn the second language of our country is in the school. It is now perfectly clear that it cannot be done efficiently elsewhere. The country's experience in trying to do so outside the regular school system—

Mr. Reid: Not even in the civil service.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: "—has proven enormously costly to the taxpayers and the results are not satisfactory."

In this report the mediator answers the question: Why a French-language school? He said: "The question has been raised many times in the discussions as to the need for a French-language school in a predominantly English-language community, such as Essex county, particularly where those who are of French extraction in the main are bilingually English and French. In addition, it is argued that the francophone community has existed all this time without a French-language secondary school.

"It is not necessary to deal exhaustively with the whole question of need in this report as the board has heard the argument many times. However, I propose as a background for my conclusions to address some comment on some of the very practical and significant reasons for the demand for a French-language secondary school at this point in time.

"The two languages, English and French, and their respective cultures were given equal status officially in this country in 1969, supported unanimously by all parties. In 1969, French was made an official language of instruction in Ontario, supported again by all three parties. These facts are being recognized and given expression in practical ways more than ever, both provincially and federally.

"French settlements were the earliest white settlements in this part of the province. Throughout the long history of this region the French have contributed substantially to

the development of the area. Now the francophone community sees its language and culture threatened as never before. Therefore, it feels strongly that a secondary school conducted on the most efficient basis possible is essential if the struggle for the maintenance of its language is to be successful.

"In the [Windsor-Essex] elementary schools, there are approximately 3,000 students in French-language classes. After grade eight at the present time they cannot continue in a school environment similar to that they have enjoyed unless it is in the private school sector. Based on authoritative studies on the matter, the French-language skills they have acquired will not be strengthened and developed as necessary in an English-language school. At the same time, based on experience elsewhere, qualified anglophone students, too, who desire to become accomplished in the use of the French language for a variety of reasons will seek admission to the school.

"The cultural opportunities provided by such a school are [most] important. However, a French-language school in this community will do a great deal more than that. It will provide education essential for career opportunities for both anglophone and francophone students. Opportunities in government, in industry and in commerce more and more are available to applicants who are bilingual. Other areas in the province are providing education to equip students for those opportunities. The sons and daughters in the Windsor-Essex area should expect similar educational opportunities here."

And let me stress the point, Mr. Speaker, that the Essex county French-language secondary school will not—and I repeat will not—be a unilingual school as some are erroneously claiming. Students graduating from that school will be fully bilingual.

The ministerial commission on French-language secondary education writes as follows in regard to the objective of a French-language school: "The objective of the French-language school is to provide a process whereby French-speaking students in Ontario will be taught in their own language and, at the same time, be equipped with a knowledge of English and the capacity to live and work in a predominantly anglophone province without abandoning their identity and culture."

I would like to commend the Minister of Education for the very detailed presentation he gave of the events leading to the legislation before us during second reading of this bill in April of this year. As was explained to the House, many avenues of mediation had been used to deal with this problem. As

was suggested by the minister, we are acting now as final mediators in that debate and I hope that our decision will be unanimous.

As a Franco-Ontarian, I would like to comment on certain remarks that were made in the House during the debate on this bill. The Minister of Education stated that much of the problem stems from a misunderstanding of what French-language schools are all about. I fully agree with that statement.

The title of French-language schools may have led people to believe that these schools do not adequately prepare their students to live in an English-speaking environment. This has never been the case. In these schools, English is taught, and very thoroughly, and as the recent Interface report states, the students coming out of French-language high schools have a good command of English.

In his remarks dealing with the history of French-language education in this province, the Minister of Education said on April 22, 1977, that on the very first opening of the Legislative Assembly in 1793, French language was mentioned for use in the western district of the province.

I would like to add that the question of French-language secondary school education in Essex is not new. It was first raised in Sandwich (Windsor) in 1828. The Legislative Assembly set up a commission, of which Mr. Robert Baldwin, who was later to become Prime Minister of Canada, was a member.

Mr. Reid: And we still haven't resolved it.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: In the journal of the Legislative Assembly of 1830, page 137, Mr. J. A. Wilkinson, from Sandwich, comments on the proposed site for a school—

Mr. Reid: Sad commentary on the educational system.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: "Les habitants du Canton de Sandwich sont principalement des Canadiens Français. Et n'eusse-je d'autres raisons pour ce faire, cette contingence, a elle seule, m'inciterait à coter hautement l'emplacement actuel de l'école du district. Je tiens beaucoup à encourager les jeunes Canadiens français à s'instruire. Je regrette d'ajouter qu'en aucune circonstance n'aie-je entendu dire que, soit les conseillers scolaires soit le conseil [général] de l'éducation, aient fait le moindre effort en ce sens, et, en quelques occasions, j'ai même appris qu'ils avaient agi en sens contraire."

Mr. Reid: Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: Mr. Speaker, for those who have may have missed the odd word:

"The residents of the county of Sandwich are mainly French Canadians. Had I no other reasons, I think that the school has to remain in that location. I hold dear to heart to encourage French Canadians to get an education. I regret to add that in no circumstance have I heard that either the school trustees, or the General Council of Education, had done whatsoever to foster education among French Canadians and on some occasions, I have learned that steps were taken to the opposite."

Mr. Reid: One hundred years later.

Hon. Mr. Brunelle: The conclusions of the commission set up in 1828 revealed two things: One, that French Canadians of Upper Canada in the 1820s, and indeed, the English-speaking Canadians, desired the best education possible for their children. Two, that the district schools (in Sandwich, especially at the secondary level) did not, in 1830, respond to the aspirations of the francophone population.

These excerpts are taken from pages 80 to 87 of the book by Arthur Godbout, *L'Origine des Ecoles Françaises Dans l'Ontario* (The Origin of French Schools in Ontario).

As a Franco-Ontarian, proud of my heritage, I would like to invite the population of Essex, through its elected representatives, to recognize and enthusiastically support a request that was first voiced 145 years ago. There have also been active French Canadian communities in the city of Windsor and in Essex county. For over a century, they have not had equality of opportunity for French language education, yet they have survived.

Louis Hémon, the well-known French-Canadian author of the book entitled *Maria Chapdelaine* published in 1916, says of French Canadians: "Ces gens sont d'une race qui ne sait pas mourir." ("These people are of a race that does not know how to die.") We must encourage their survival as it will help to ensure the survival of our country.

Times have changed, attitudes have evolved. The province of Ontario has done a great deal in the last 10 years to meet the educational aspirations of Franco-Ontarians. Francophones in the Essex region were the first to request a French secondary school and yet they are still deprived of it. In the name of fair play, of historical rights, for the people who helped build this part of our province, I urge this House to unanimously support Bill 3.

I would also ask the citizens of Essex to grant their French-speaking fellow citizens

their long-standing request. The French Canadians of this area have been citizens of good standing within the community. They have contributed to the wealth of the region. They have lived in harmony with their neighbours.

In closing, I would sincerely hope the building of this school will foster greater understanding among the population of Essex and Windsor and that the people responsible for secondary education in that area shall, by their goodwill and "accueil," make a success of the new French-language high school. Also, the passage of this bill will help to promote national unity. It will make our neighbours in la belle province aware that French-speaking Canadians living in Ontario can educate their children in either of the two official languages of this country.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, before I speak on Bill 3 may I first take the opportunity to welcome back the leader of the third party from Florida and tell him that he looks fit and well-tanned and I hope he enjoyed himself while he was down there resting.

Mr. Nixon: The NDP have missed him too.

Mr. Roy: I just can't count the leadership candidates on that side now.

Mr. Lewis: It's a good job.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my contribution to the debate concerning Bill 3, An Act to require The Essex County Board of Education to provide a French-language Secondary School. This bill has caused me a great deal of concern—not only myself, as the representative for the riding of Essex South, but all of the people from the riding, all of the people from the county and from Windsor in general. Also, we can't ignore or forget the turmoil that the school issue and the bill has caused the Essex County Board of Education.

[9:15]

I say with all the sincerity I can muster the people of Essex county are not bigots. They do not want to deprive the French population or any other segment of society in the county or in the city of any of their rights. The people of Essex county in Windsor ask for a little common sense. They ask that all of the subjects and concerns that they have brought to me as their member be considered.

I can say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the opposition to the construction of this school has been long and profound. The opposition has come from all segments of society there;

from local elected officials, from the Essex county ratepayers and from ordinary citizens. I just might like to put on the record that the local elected officials of Tecumseh, Leamington, Kingsville, Amherstburg and many other parts of the community have registered their objection to the construction of this school, not because they want to deprive anyone of the opportunity to learn French, but for exactly the opposite reason. They want to ensure that all the citizens of the area have the opportunity to learn French.

These groups have been frustrated at almost every turn. They have been frustrated by an unyielding French action committee and have been cast aside with complete disregard by the Minister of Education. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have heard on more than one occasion that the Essex county school board has tried to meet with the Minister of Education to give him their point of view but unfortunately it seems that he never had the time to meet with them. That's what they told me. If it's wrong, please correct the record.

Also, I might say that last spring we had representatives from three towns in the county of Essex. They were able to get in to see the leader of the third party and they were able to come in and see the leader of the official opposition. But they were not able to see the Minister of Education. He had his parliamentary assistant meet with them. I say to the House that the ministry has the obligation to meet every organization on a matter as important as the construction of this school.

Mr. Speaker, just let me say that I believe there are nearly 40 mixed schools here in the province of Ontario. I put this question to the Minister of Education: Is he going to phase out those mixed schools? Is he going to implement French-language schools in all of those areas where the population in those areas is much greater, as far as the francophone community is concerned, than in the area of Essex county? Why is Essex county, with a francophone population of around 10 per cent, going to get a French-language school when there are 40 other mixed schools in the province serving areas with a greater French population? Why is this happening? I hope the minister can explain this later on.

The Essex county board is faced with a great many concerns on this issue. They are faced with the concern of constructing a new building when they know the enrolment is going down. They are faced with the concern of the ever-increasing school taxes. They are faced with the concern of having their local autonomy completely destroyed by a bill, the

likes of which I have never seen. They are faced with the concern of closing the French unit courses in both Belle River and Sandwich West Secondary. I believe in Belle River there are 287 students in the French unit and in Sandwich West there are approximately 95 students.

The Essex County Board of Education is concerned. They are concerned about the opportunity to give French-language education to those students in those two units. I would just like to mention, as has already been mentioned, approximately only 10 per cent of those students is taking more than four courses in French.

This reminds me of something that Mr. Levesque is doing in Quebec. In effect, he is saying: "Forget about all the French people outside of Quebec. If they really wanted to be French, they would come and live in Quebec." I believe this is comparable to what the Minister of Education is doing in Essex county. He is saying: "Let's forget about all of the students who want to take two and three courses in French. Let's only be concerned with the people who want to take five or more courses in French."

It's the object of this Legislature, and that ministry, to give French-language education to all the students of Essex county in Windsor, not just the ones who want to take more than five subjects. What's going to happen to those students? I was talking to the mayor of Tecumseh, Mayor Don Lappan, who happens to be French himself, and he has expressed this concern to me. He says he wants his children to take two or three courses in French, and they do too. But they do not want to go to a French-language school, where just about all their courses are in French. The minister is depriving them of that opportunity.

Not only that, I think all of us here in this assembly are going to have to come to terms with this issue: If we really want the French language to prosper here in Ontario and outside of the French province of Quebec, let's start teaching non-French-speaking people French. That's the only way the minister is going to do it, if it is his objective to give equal education opportunity to all.

I have tried to keep myself abreast of what the Essex County Board of Education has been doing on the French issue itself, and I have talked on a great many occasions with my board member, Mr. Phil Smith from Amherstburg, who has conveyed to me the feeling of the Essex county board. That is that the board is prepared and willing to expand all of its French education, for all of the students of Essex county. What more

can we ask from a board? What more can we ask from a board that says it is willing to expand its program in all of the schools?

I would like to add that just the other day in the Windsor Star I read a report that said the Essex County Board of Education was one of the first boards in the province, and probably the most aggressive board, to try to get funds from the government so it could expand its French education under the new program the Minister of Education outlined last spring.

Basically, I oppose Bill 3 for two reasons. One I believe the construction of the new French school is an unnecessary, costly expenditure; and two, and more importantly, I believe the board, with help from the Ministry of Education, should take steps to ensure there is equal opportunity for all students to learn French.

The only way to do that in a very common-sense way and approach is to have more French units in all the secondary schools in Essex County—have French units in Leamington and in Amherstberg and elsewhere, so we don't have to bus students all over the place and so the students can take two courses in French if they want to, or five if they want to. Don't burden them with a school that will be able to support only the elite French.

I cannot rise on this issue without making a few comments about the Minister of Education. I really find it funny, almost amusing, that almost a week—

Mr. Foulds: If something is funny, how can it be almost amusing?

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will continue his remarks and ignore the interjections.

Mr. Mancini: —that the Minister of Education would come to Essex county and Windsor only a few days after the staff of the Essex county board had presented to the board five proposals for them to choose one and take action. I don't think it's necessary for me to repeat the five proposals. I'm sure they have already been put on the record by some of my colleagues here in this assembly. But why wouldn't the minister wait and let the board decide on one of these proposals and help it along?

Why should he go to Windsor and Essex county and tell them he's going to twist arms, he doesn't care what decision they make, and he's going to construct a French-language school? Those few short statements that the Minister of Education made about forcing the construction of the school no matter what the board decided on were probably some of the most destructive com-

ments made in the whole issue of this French-language school debate.

It's not very often that members of the assembly rise, on a certain issue, not in support of their party or their party leader. But just let me say this about my party leader. I have to congratulate him for having the courage to tell me and other members of this caucus that because of the nature of this legislation and because of the turmoil that it has caused in Essex county and Windsor, we could be free to vote with our conscience. There's no other leader here in this assembly who can say that. Also, I cannot rise without mentioning that my leader was the only one to come into Essex county to face the people head on about this issue.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Head on is exactly the right word.

Mr. Mancini: I believe it certainly was the responsibility of the Premier of this province—

Hon. B. Stephenson: To play tennis?

Mr. Mancini: —who is crushing local autonomy and who had created such a furor with his program in the area to come to Essex county the same way that my leader did and meet the confrontation and the people who were concerned head on.

Mr. Nixon: What games do you play, Bette?

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I say I'm quite satisfied with my position—

Hon. B. Stephenson: Not the same kind you do, Robert, thank God.

Mr. Mancini: —and if the Minister of Labour would just let me wind up, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. members will refrain from interjecting. It's out of order.

Mr. Laughren: It is difficult.

Mr. Mancini: I would just like to say I feel comfortable with my position. I think it's reasonable. If some of the members of this House have time to come to Essex county, they'll really be able to meet the fine people there and understand they're not bigots. They're fine people, and their motive is to give French education to all.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a few comments on Bill 3, An Act to require The Essex County Board of Education to provide a French-language Secondary School. I had intended to make quite substantial comments concerning this piece of legislation. But as the history of the struggle of the French-speaking minority in the province of Ontario to attain equal linguistic

rights has been well enunciated by previous speakers, I shall curtail my remarks.

[9:30]

I could read into the record parts of The Education Act, 1974, section 255. But all of that section is very familiar to everyone concerned. I regret very much that today, July 11, we have before us a bill that forces an elected school body to do something the collected majority judgement of its membership refuses to do. Here we, as members of this Legislature, are telling the Essex county school board, in this instance, that local autonomy does not exist.

Yet the minister could easily have avoided the introduction of this piece of legislation if he had taken into consideration recommendation 33(e) of the Symons report, just as had been mentioned by my colleague, the member for Ottawa East. I hope the Minister of Education will look into the bill that was introduced by the member for Ottawa East so that in the future such legislation as is before us today will never have to be introduced again.

The problem in the Essex county area could have been easily resolved had the Minister of Education changed his attitude in the approach to the whole question. He made mention of twisting arms. He told the board they were to do as he sort of instructed them to do. You just don't get people to cooperate when you attempt to coerce.

No one ever can make friends and influence people with the approaches used by the Minister of Education when he at first came into the county. All he had to do was simply tell the board that the grant was restored to 95 per cent, and allow them to make their own decision. But when you make the decision for them, and tell them that they are to rubber-stamp your wish, almost anyone who is confronted with a situation like that will react in the opposite way.

As a result, the members of the Essex county school board just could not accept that type of an approach by the Minister of Education. He attempted to force them to do as he wished, rather than allow them to make their own collective judgement as to whether they should or should not have built the school under the 95 per cent grant ceiling.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You asked me to do that all the time, Bernie.

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Minister, you came down there and made mention, and we saw it on television, that you were going to twist arms and that they were going to do this rather than you simply telling them, "Now look, the grants have been restored to 95

per cent, think it over." But don't tell them, "You either support this or don't—"

Hon. Mr. Wells: We've been trying for five years—

Mr. B. Newman: Mr. Minister, you had the chance for one more attempt there to convince the board, yet you refused to take advantage of that.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will not interrupt the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville.

Mr. B. Newman: You wanted to have your way only in this case rather than letting the collective judgement of that board of education make the decision.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You vote against the bill.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. B. Newman: I am fairly certain, in my discussions with the various members of the board, that they would have gone along with what you wanted to do, but not with what you tried to force them to do. They are considerate people. They listen to reason and they would have accepted that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You are twisting their arms.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will refrain from interrupting.

Mr. Conway: Throw him out.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Good. Then I can go home. You vote against the bill, Bernie.

Mr. B. Newman: The separate school board attempted to resolve these issues. Back in October 1974 they passed a resolution. I'll read only one portion of that resolution: "Be it resolved that the Essex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board advise the Minister of Education that it would be willing to: (1) Build and operate a French-language secondary school in Essex county." They would have resolved the problem for the minister.

They were so determined that back on March 21, 1977—three years later; that is this year—they once again petitioned. Their resolution was: "Be it resolved that the Essex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board petition the Legislature of the province of Ontario to take legislative action to permit the Essex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board to construct and operate a French-language secondary school so that the rights of the French Canadians residing in Essex county may no longer be denied and delayed."

They've asked the government to take legislative action and it could have taken legislative action—

Mr. Nixon: What was the matter with that alternative?

Mr. B. Newman: —so that we wouldn't have had the problems that we are confronted with today.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Oh, come on, you know why we couldn't do that.

Mr. Roy: Why?

Mr. B. Newman: I really think that that could have gone a long way to resolving the problem.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Because it means expansion of aid.

Mr. Roy: What's wrong with that?

Mr. Lewis: That is against government policy.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You are in favour of it; we are not.

Mr. Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. B. Newman: Right along I have been in favour of the provision of French-language instruction.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You are in favour of expanding grants; we are not.

Mr. B. Newman: I would even go so far as to say, "Construct a French-language school but with one condition." The condition is simply that existing facilities be investigated first before we go ahead and construct the school. If the minister finds there are not the facilities available, then he has no alternative. We haven't looked into that at all. We've completely neglected the idea that here are facilities in the community worth looking at.

I am not saying they are satisfactory. I don't know. The facility would have to be satisfactory to the French-speaking population in the county, to the Essex county school board and as well as to those who are going to use the facilities that is, those wishing to have French as the language of instruction.

I've maintained that stand at all times. Back in February 1976, I was asked about it by a Windsor Star reporter.

Mr. McClellan: He has no stand here.

Mr. B. Newman: I had made mention that I am in favour of using an existing facility for the school rather than going into substantial outlay of funds, especially since most of the students would have to be bussed to the new school in any event. I am still of that same opinion. I will support the bill because I don't think there are facilities available, but I think there is an obligation on the part of the ministry to try to find out if there are facilities available.

Mr. McClellan: It is a brand new school.

Mr. B. Newman: Two come into my mind immediately. One is Patterson Collegiate which is now being phased out, and I know there may be some legislative complications in the taking over of Patterson Collegiate. There is likewise the teachers' college that has been mentioned.

Patterson Collegiate, even though it is an old school—and I happen to be a graduate of that school—has a swimming pool, a gymnasium, and an auditorium. I doubt all those three facilities are available in any of the schools in our community, or, if they are available, it is in maybe one or two schools.

I think there is an obligation on the part of the ministry to find out if there are facilities that can be used before we go into the constructing of a new school. I don't think we should hold up the planning because I don't think it would take much longer than maybe a month or so to explore the possibilities. Only after that, if we find we cannot get satisfactory facilities, should we go into the construction of a new school.

I would recommend to the minister that he read the July 8 editorial of the Windsor Star. It points out the position very accurately and very forcefully. The county school board, facing expenditures forced on it by the Legislature, owes it to the taxpayers to investigate the possibility of finding some economies by using an existing building. If no building is available, then construct the school.

Mr. Conway: I too would like to rise with other hon. members to participate in this very important debate on the matter of Bill 3. It is, I think, and as my hon. colleague from Ottawa East has so eloquently outlined, a genuine tragedy that we stand in this assembly in 1977 reliving what is for those of us who know anything of Ontario's past the very familiar and tragic tale of French-language education in this province.

The precedents set very recently in Sturgeon Falls and Cornwall I think most loudly ring in the not too distant past. I listened to the minister and I listened to others here today and I think this debate, while bringing forward a certain degree of conflicting opinion, has educated, I hope, all of us. It has me, speaking from my own point of view.

I don't want to return to the level established by my colleague from Welland-Thorold, but in terms of this particular bill, I would suggest the reason for the character of Bill 3 as put before us this year is like much of the legislation that has rendered this very sensitive matter so very contro-

versial over the years preceding 1977—it is the very political climate in which it was considered. I maintain that it was the minority government circumstance of 1976, heightened obviously—and justifiably—by the circumstances of November 15, 1976 that have produced this particular bill. It has in it, I think, a considerable amount of repugnant quality—not so much in its direction but in its implementation. That is why I think we've got this kind of bill, because the government opposite, never insensitive to the political realities of its situation, decided in the minority government climate preceding the election of 1977 to take a very political stance.

I just want to say, as someone who comes from a rather long line of Ontario politics with specific reference to this kind of an issue, that Bill 3 stands as very typical of the attitude that the Ontario Tory mentality stands for. This kind of situation has been let boil to this extent for those good reasons put forward by my friends the members for Ottawa East, Essex North, Essex South and Windsor-Walkerville. It is not untypical of what the Ontario Tory mentality has had to offer, not only to Franco-Ontarians in the past but I dare say and I happily extend that to the separate school legislation. Minorities have not always been the favourite of the Ontario Tory mentality.

One of the things I'm afraid some of us have not given full appreciation to—and I don't restrict this to this particular body of legislators but I extend it just as happily and perhaps most especially to the members of the press in this province—because there is a very significant tendency for many people to dismiss as insignificant what many in this party particularly have described as the very serious conflict of fundamental principles. As my good friend from Essex North has so pointedly made reference to, there is a very significant conflict in this Bill 3 of some fundamental principles—the principle of local autonomy versus the principle of minority rights as needed to be protected by a provincial government.

[9:45]

I think as a precedent to this report—one that I think should weigh with all of us here—perhaps the most significant historical precedent in this instance is the great Manitoba schools crisis of the 1890s, and how that particular crisis weighed upon the leader of the national Liberal Party of the day, Wilfrid Laurier. I want to take you back very briefly to the discussion of the 1890s as it related to the Manitoba schools question, where a provincial government had

moved very directly to curtail significantly the rights of a French-speaking minority. What was the reaction of a French-speaking, soon-to-be Prime Minister, leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, a man who I think without question had a pretty obvious commitment to his French-speaking confreres in Manitoba? Wilfrid Laurier in 1896 faced squarely the challenge of that conflict, and it is not without significance that Laurier resolved his conflict not in favour of the French-speaking minority in Manitoba, but rather in favour of local autonomy. I hope all of us here and all members of the Ontario public think of that for a moment, if only to appreciate the degree to which these principles are significant now as in the past.

As the member for Renfrew North, I can recall—again historically—one of the tremendous steps taken by Mlle. Lajoie in Pembroke in the 1920s when trying to establish and maintain for the French-speaking minority in the community of Pembroke, a French-language education that was slammed by the Tory regulation 17. Mlle. Lajoie accomplished what was to become for the French-speaking population in Canada, to say nothing of Ontario, a very important feat with the establishment of l'Ecole Jeanne d'Arc, a French-speaking free school that set a model for other such schools in this province not more than 50 years ago when the French-speaking minority operated under a sickenly discriminatory onus, namely the regulation 17 perpetrated on them by the Conservative administration of the day.

I want to conclude by saying that the minister says to my friend from Windsor-Walkerville, "Vote against the bill." Clearly, we do not have that choice—

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: —because there is incumbent on those of us who feel the need to show the French-speaking population outside of this province that we are supportive of the obvious justice that the French-speaking minority must have and that they deserve in this province. There is no choice. There is none whatever. But the fact that the administrative detail of this bill is so obnoxious, so transparently obnoxious, is, I think, in a way that is not unlike some of regulation 17, an indictment that will long live to embarrass the Conservative Party of Ontario.

Mr. Riddell: My feelings exactly.

Mr. Sweeney: I rise with reluctance, Mr. Speaker, to speak to this bill—

Hon. Mr. Wells: You are not alone.

Mr. Sweeney: —both from the point of view that the time is late and that by this

time I'm sure the minister's ears are ringing with one denunciation after another.

Mr. Lewis: With praise and adulation.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You'd never know the hon. member was going to vote for the bill.

Mr. Sweeney: Let me say right at the beginning that there's no question of that. I'm going to vote for the bill. I'm going to support it.

Mr. Conway: There's a lot less question about the attitude of the member for Renfrew South.

Mr. Roy: There's no doubt I was being critical about certain aspects—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: You were fair.

Mr. Roy: I was too fair. That's the problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for Kitchener-Wilmot has the floor.

Mr. Sweeney: I want to be very sure that the minister understands the very fact that so many of us rose to speak on this bill was not just for the sake of hearing ourselves repeat, time and time again, some of the same arguments, but to impress upon him and his colleagues the very deep seriousness with which we view this bill.

I haven't had much experience in this House, the minister well knows. However, both from what I've seen and heard in this House and from what I was aware of before coming into it, I don't think a bill has ever been presented to it that has set the kind of precedent that this one is setting. I don't think a bill has ever been presented to it that is as harsh—and that's a mild world—as this one is.

Mr. Riddell: Vicious is better. The most vicious bill that has ever come into this House.

Mr. Sweeney: And, therefore, it is incumbent upon each of us here, or as many of us who—

Mr. Lewis: What?

Mr. Riddell: You don't believe in local autonomy over there, not a bit. You people don't know what local autonomy is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Sweeney: It's incumbent upon us to be as clear as we possibly can to the minister and his colleagues as to just how we feel about this—to make him aware of the fact that he has put us all in a box. There's no question about that, and you know it. How much of it was conceived that way, I don't

know. How much is accidental, I don't know. But that's the point we find ourselves in.

Each of us brings to this debate our own history and, like my colleague from Carleton East, I had the experience of attending school in the province of Quebec for four years. Like my colleague from Carleton East, I must say that I received my education in English, without any second thought. It was made as clear as possible to me, even as a young boy getting educated there, that I was getting no more than my due rights. I never questioned it, and for that I'm grateful to this day. I wasn't at that time. I didn't even understand it, or appreciate it. That's one of the reasons why I have to support this bill. There is a debt that I feel I personally have to pay.

The second point is that working fairly recently with another school board I was instrumental in encouraging that board to build the first French-language school in that county. I can tell you very clearly it wasn't without a certain amount of opposition. That county was, and is, only two per cent francophone. To try to justify to the trustees and to the ratepayers the need for a French-language school for the francophone population of that county was not an easy thing to do. But it was done, and it was done without the acrimony that has accompanied this particular situation.

So, it's that kind of history, that kind of personal background that I bring to this decision. I really don't have any choice. I have to support this bill. But let us clearly understand that there are two very important principles here, and we've discussed the first one. The first one is the minority language rights of the francophone population of this province. There's no question about that.

Secondly—and almost equally important given the present age, the present context in which we find ourselves—is the principle of local autonomy. This bill just slashes it. The unalterable irony of this bill, of course, is the recognition that the local board has acted totally and completely within the law as it now stands, and they are being punished for it.

Yes, they're being punished. I recognize the supremacy of this Legislature. I know we can make new laws. I know we can change the laws as they exist. But the minister himself is frequently the one who says: "How can we justify changing the rules in midstream?" When we asked him not too long ago about his recent curriculum decisions with respect to grade nine students coming into the secondary schools in September 1977, we said: "Why don't you do the

same thing for grade 10?" He said: "We can't change those rules in midstream." Yet that's what he is doing here.

The legislation which is presently on the books of this province very clearly allows the local school board to make the decision that it does. It says in subsection 4 of section 255: "... where in the opinion of the board it so warrants, or where, practical . . ." Those are all optional terms. They're the terms which the board used. That's where the minister is slashing local autonomy. That's where he's just taking it and waving it aside.

Let's just take a very brief look at how we got to this point because the second major point I want to make is that the problem we are in now is totally the minister's responsibility. He is the one who got us all into this—his ministry, his government—because we have known what is happening here since 1969. We had the history of Sturgeon Falls and Cornwall to look back on. We know that these questions aren't resolved easily. From 1969 to 1975 the minister and his ministry quite honestly, no criticism implied, tried to get this thing settled and he had it—

Hon. Mr. Wells: Your party didn't push at all.

Mr. Roy: That's bull.

Mr. Sweeney: He had it. In 1975, he had it right in the palm of his hand.

Mr. Roy: Read my speech of '73.

Mr. Sweeney: After six years of struggling, he had it.

An hon. member: It's the government.

Mr. Sweeney: After the experience in Sturgeon Falls and Cornwall, he knew the problems.

An hon. member: That's right.

Mr. Sweeney: The board had finally agreed to go ahead, and what did he do? To this day I can't understand that decision. When the board said to the minister: "Yes, we will go ahead"; and within months after them making that decision, after all that trial and tribulation, he changed the grant regulations. When the board appealed to the minister—and when he gave us his hour-long discourse when the bill was introduced in the last session, he himself revealed the fact that he had correspondence from the board asking him to make an exception, given these circumstances, given the history, given the problems it had gone through and let the 95 per cent level stand—his response was: "Sorry, Madam Chairman"—I think it was a woman at that time, if I remember his notes correctly—"Sorry, I can't

make that kind of an exception. If I do it for you I will have to do it for everyone else." And yet that's the very exception the minister is making now.

If he had only done it two years ago. He could have done it two years ago but he let the thing go; he let it get out of hand and that's the problem we are facing today. That's what I can't understand. That's why it has to rest on the shoulders of the government.

We now have the information that the federal money coming to the minister for francophone education is not being used for francophone education—the minister himself has admitted it and he even has gone on to say that we are going to have to make some changes in that. In other words, a couple of years ago when all of these things could have been corrected, they weren't. The minister waits until today; we have a national crisis on our hands and now he is going to do something. That's the kind of dilemma the minister has put us in.

Finally, may I just say that that particular area of the problem has always deserved special attention, because the francophone population of Windsor and Essex are original settlers. These are not people who have migrated from some other part of Canada. This is one of the original settlement areas for francophone population in this country, just as many parts of Quebec were. These are the original people. These are the people who contributed to and took part in the original Confederation agreement, so that we would have the minority rights protection we are talking about right now.

Yes, we are going to support the minister's bill. We are going to do it because we believe that minority language rights at this point in time take precedence; but we are doing it with great reluctance. We are doing it with great reluctance and we are doing it knowing that it isn't necessary, because the way out is so simple and so obvious. The minister knows it himself and to this moment I can't understand why he doesn't take it.

The present legislation very clearly says that when there are 20 or more students you must open a class. How simple it would be to say, in subsection 4 of section 255, that when you have a certain number—and the minister decides the number, 150, 200, 250—I don't know what the magic number is but the minister has used the number before and why can't he use it again? Simply say, "When you have that many, you must provide a school." That's the first point.

The second point is why does the minister insist in this bill that they must build? Why doesn't he just say, "You must provide a school"? Give them the option. We know

there either is or can be a surplus secondary school in the city of Windsor. We know that with a little bit of arranging and a little bit of give and take here and there, the former Windsor teachers' college could be made available for this purpose. I am not saying, necessarily, that either one of them will do the job. All we are saying is, at least give the board the option.

[10:00]

To the best of my knowledge, I would stress to the minister, there is nowhere in The Education Act where you force a board to build a school. You say that the board has to provide a space where education can take place. You don't say they have to build a school. That has to be unnecessary harshness in this bill.

How can we possibly not empathize with the people of that area when we are literally beating them over the head with this legislation? And it isn't necessary. There is still time, there is still time to change the legislation to give those people a little bit of dignity, a little bit of pride; to respect their local autonomy and to get the school at the same time. We can do everything that needs to be done. What else can it be except pride, stubbornness, saving face or whatever you will?

We support the bill, I support this bill; but I do so reluctantly because of the way in which the minister has brought it in.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I shall be brief, sir. I had listened to this debate when it began prior to the call of the election. I had listened to it, or read about it, as it resumed. I listened carefully today and I was wont to enter because of the words of the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston), and then the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini). These members individually and together, made a plea to this Legislature to be, in the words of the member for Essex North, more reasonable; and in the words of the member for Essex South, to exercise common sense; a plea which I do not dispute for a moment was genuine and feeling.

Obviously there is emotion running deep in those members and in that caucus, as elsewhere in the Legislature. What I wanted to do, albeit late, is to turn that plea around on behalf of many of us in this Legislature, and speak, as it were, to the members who represent the people affected in Essex county, and ask them, even at the eleventh hour, to reconsider their positions in this debate.

This has been a good debate. Members have participated feelingly, knowledgeably and spontaneously. It's a good debate in a Legis-

lature which sometimes doesn't have real debate or real interchange.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to rehash the minutiae and the details of transportation costs and site selection and all of those related matters. I don't want to engage in re-creation, because it is an admittedly painful subject. While I share the feeling of my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) in the pride he has in some of the things which New Democrats in the Legislature have said, I want to admit, willingly, that I share equally a very bitter disappointment in the position which some of our candidates took in the Essex-Windsor area during the course of the election and which I personally wish had been otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to abuse the Minister of Education. I think he has deserved some of the criticism directed at him, to put it as gently as I can, in terms of the delay and the time that it has taken us to arrive at this position. But I must admit that I don't view the bill quite so repugnantly as some people.

I wouldn't have called it, as the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) did, a "vicious" bill. I wouldn't have put it that way at all. It is a necessary bill; it is a bill for which there is now no alternative. It is a bill which is the result of exhausted patience and exhausted endurance, culminating in this finale today in the Legislature. I don't even want, to restate the profound and qualitative difference which many of us believe exists between those schools in the province which are, to use the words of the member for Essex South, mixed or bilingual and those which are unilingual and which have, I think, a rather different impact on the Franco-Ontarian population which seeks its education in a unilingual school.

In an odd way, all the arguments having been exhausted, one of the really sad things about this debate is the sense that the members from the county involved feel they must have their apparent decision to vote against the bill. I wish it were possible to have it otherwise. If I may, speaking to them as a colleague, even of another party, I would say that one understands and appreciates what's going on in Essex county; and, boy, I can tell them that some of us truly regret it.

The pressures, the tensions, the sense of local autonomy violated—it all pours out in the expressions of defensiveness which we hear from Windsor-Essex members. There's a kind of protective feeling about what's going on in Essex county; a sense of members and a county under siege; the need to repeat again and again that people in Essex are not bigots,

when this Legislature needs no such reassurance; the sense, I guess, generally of defensiveness that has emerged in the course of this debate from people who represent the citizens of that area.

I can understand it. I think we do understand it and what's involved. But I want to say to those members that I don't really think that's enough.

When the member for Essex South rose he said midway through his speech, if I remember him correctly, that there were two reasons for his opposition to Bill 3. Both the reasons he put to this Legislature were intensely local reasons; they were intensely an organic product of what was going on today in Essex county.

I think what is true of everybody in this House is a recognition—and I put it to the member for Essex North and to the member for Essex South—that we have to speak in different terms, that there is a greater issue. It is an issue which even the members from Essex must bring themselves to address.

I don't pretend it's easy, but it's critical. All members of the Legislature have talked of it. And as a matter of fact when I listened in my office this afternoon to the member for Ottawa East, he talked of it: He said that what was happening with the Essex bill was that the debate on Canadian unity was being brought into the Ontario Legislature. That's what we were talking about.

We were no longer rehashing the sad history of Essex county and the government errors and the government frailties, whatever they may be. We were talking to something which transcends the simple matter of constituency representation. We were talking about Canada. We were participating in a national debate. We were saying that the question of minority rights, language, culture and education, transcends Essex county. That's what we're dealing with.

I was struck by all of that when I listened to the members even before the supper hour. That's why I want to ask them, presumptuous though it may be, to join with the rest of us in supporting this bill. The member for Essex North said—I heard him—he wouldn't like to vote on a bridge or a road in some other member's riding; but that's our job, that's what we're elected for. There are moments in the life of this Legislature when one looks beyond an individual riding and says it speaks to the greater issue. That's simply what this debate is all about and that's what we're asking members to do: to provide leadership that extends beyond the local option. It's a very great and good principle.

I went home over the dinner hour to get hold of one of my political theorist loves—totally unorthodox for socialists—I went back to read a little Edmund Burke. And I want to remind the members representing Essex, and perhaps the members of the Legislature generally, of that magnificent speech Burke made to the electors of Bristol, who had put him into the House of Commons in 1774. You probably recall, Mr. Speaker, that there were a couple of people elected from the riding of Bristol at that time; Burke stood second, but was elected and confirmed. When he was greeting his constituents on the night of the victory, the man with whom he shared the riding said that he was subservient to their interests as people in Bristol. Burke replied this way to his own supporters:

“Certainly, gentlemen, it ought to be the happiness and glory of a representative to live in the strictest union, the closest correspondence, and the most unreserved communication with his constituents. Their wishes ought to have great weight with him; their opinions high respect, their business unremitted attention. It is his duty to sacrifice his response, his pleasure, his satisfactions to theirs. And above all, ever and in all cases, to prefer their interest to his own.

“But his unbiased opinion, his mature judgement, his enlightened conscience, he ought not to sacrifice to you, to any man or to any set of men living. Your representative owes you not his industry only, but his judgement; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion.”

Mr. Reid: And he represented a rotten borough at the same time.

Mr. Lewis: Then Edmund Burke was put to the test because the issue arose immediately after. It is fascinating how these historical parallels can be invoked. He was put to the test because the Irish question emerged over a matter of cultural rights, with England wanting to extend to Ireland at that moment in time, uncharacteristically, a slight gesture of generosity. The electors of Bristol were having nothing of it; and they told Burke, for God's sake be our advocate. To which he replied: “I should only disgrace myself. I should lose the only thing that can make such abilities as mine of any use to the world now or hereafter. I mean that authority which is derived from the opinion that a member speaks the language of truth and sincerity, and that he is not ready to take up or lay down a great political system for the convenience of the hour.”

It has often struck me that the principle to be entertained is that members of the Legislature, in debates like this, speak beyond their ridings, beyond their constituencies. It is absolutely central to the parliamentary system.

That is why I appeal to the members for Essex South and Essex North to set aside the rancour and division. We shouldn't imperil the future around this bill. This bill stands as a symbol, which everybody understands, of something far more important. What we are doing here tonight, first of all, is reaffirming the rights of the francophone minority in Essex county to an education to which they are entitled by law. But what we are doing more fundamentally is reaffirming the intention of the members of the Ontario Legislature to say to Essex county, to say to this province, to say to Quebec and to say to Canada, that francophone rights, language, culture are sacrosanct as an indispensable component of this country.

[10:15]

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I feel constrained to join this debate because of a reference made by the Minister of Education in his interjections, perhaps half an hour ago, indicating that our party had not taken a constructive stand in this matter as it presently is before the Legislature; and more important as it has been before this House in the last six to eight years. I recall to the minister that during the debate on The Education Act in 1973 or 1974 that we in our party, with myself as leader, ably supported by the hon. member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) and the former member for Nipissing (Mr. R. S. Smith), as well as others, spoke as strongly as we could and offered amendments in committee to the House. These would have strengthened the position of the Languages of Instruction Commission in making their decisions binding on the parties involved in any community of the province of Ontario. We believe that would have been, and would still be, the most healthy course to pursue, since it would have established, by the responsibility and power of this House, the requirement in all of those communities in Ontario where there is a francophone population which can be properly served by a French education system, that such a school system be established as an undoubted right of the population in that community.

I feel that the leader of the NDP is being slightly presumptuous when he indicates in his excellent address that my colleagues from Essex North and South have somehow or other been diluting their own views or bowing to the views of their constituents rather

than expressing their own views. I don't support their particular position, but I thought they put it forward effectively and well. In order to quote Edmund Burke, and in such an effective way as the leader of the NDP always does, perhaps in some small degree he was unfair to my colleagues who have expressed their views tonight and previously in this debate. They expressed their views before the electorate, as did the representatives of the NDP and the Conservative Party. Whoever had been elected down there would surely, if they were honourable men, have had to take the same position. To somehow indicate they are something less than excellent in their positions in this House is difficult for me to take.

Mr. Lewis: I didn't mean that.

Mr. Nixon: I hope not.

Mr. Lewis: No.

Mr. Nixon: Because as far as we are concerned, Mr. Speaker, our leader has very effectively put forward our position and it is one which transcends the objections that have been expressed by members here through their speeches and by their interjections. I certainly feel that position is transcended by our responsibilities in this province to see that others in our Confederation in no way feel we are weak in accepting the fact that this is a bilingual nation and a multicultural nation. But the bilingual aspects are those which are our responsibility to support, and through this bill enforce.

I just wish that the leadership of the government, which was lacking in 1973 and 1974, and frankly in a strange and perverse way is lacking now, could still be put forward, so that we in this House are prepared to say that in any part of this province, and in any community where there is a need for French education, as decided by the Languages of Instruction Commission—which can hold hearings from both sides; and which obviously could be appealed from, if that is the correct phrase, to the cabinet—so that it is basically a political decision once again that these rights could be confirmed across the province.

The alternative that this bill involves—and we are supporting it, at least it is going to pass in this House; I see the minister is looking at the clock hoping that he can sum up so that we can get this finished perhaps—

Hon. Mr. Wells: Tomorrow.

Mr. Nixon: I don't know, maybe Wednesday or Thursday.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Doesn't matter to me.

Mr. Nixon: That's good, because it doesn't matter to me either.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the correct alternative is already before this House in the amendment to The Education Act moved by my colleague from Ottawa East. In fact, there is still time to implement that amendment and move away from this Act, which says to the democratically elected board of education that we deem you to have taken a certain decision, which obviously they have not taken, that we require boards of education all across this province to do certain things that many of them object to. If you think of the complaints that have come to you from elected board members in your own area about specific things that are required under our statutes that we believe are correct, or at least are the will of the majority of the elected members of this House, then surely the amendment to The Education Act putting this responsibility under the Languages of Instruction Commission would be eminently fair; and it would be equal to all communities, without us, as a Legislature, selecting one area and taking them by the neck and shaking them and saying: "You will do thus and so." It would surely be fair, and even better as an example to those in Quebec and other areas of Canada who need an example; this would surely be the far healthier alternative for us to take.

I regret that this bill is before us; and I don't have any hesitation in saying that really I regret having to support it, since it is so special in its effect and that the alternatives, the broad statement of our commitment to bilingual education in this province, could be before us if the Minister of Education took the leadership and accepted the amendment that is before the House and has been now for two or three years.

I intend to vote for the bill, with the feelings of reluctance that I have already expressed. I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, that there are still alternatives which would be better for the community of Essex, would be better for Ontario; and I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, better for Canada.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest at the offset of these few remarks that I was most impressed with the eloquent words of all of the speakers in this debate. Not the least of which were those of the member for Scarborough West (Mr. Lewis); and I would like to suggest to this House that perhaps there is one element that was ignored or left out of his comments. It certainly came through to me during the course of this debate and the things that have led up to it, that my colleagues from Essex and Windsor-Walkerville have faced the anguish within their communities and have had to, in a sense, be a

bit of a catalyst for us. Certainly the ministry action in bringing this Act before us was part of that process, but I think the stance taken by my colleagues cannot be ignored and I appreciate at the same time the plea that the member for Scarborough West makes to them.

As a new member of this Legislature and speaking for the first time in this House, I would like to suggest to you that my remarks in support of this bill will be very brief, but I hope that the brevity is not interpreted as a lack of sincerity because this is to me, and I hope to all of us, a very important issue.

At the same time as I say that in support of the bill, I would have to suggest that I am happy that I wasn't part of the system of delay, mentioned so many times in the earlier debate, that has made this, to quote the minister's own words, "a touchy and inflammatory situation."

I think it is obvious to all of us that many people still do not know what are the issues, or what is the main issue in Essex. That may seem strange, but if you get the same kind of correspondence that I get as a new member, I'm sure you would agree; and these aren't from people in my own constituency but from people across the province who are still puzzled about this issue. I hope that this debate is well recorded so that the people do know what the issue is.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to digress, and again keeping an eye on the clock, for a very few moments I would like to make an observation or two as our party's education critic, and say that when the dust settles on this debate, and if the bill passes and again I'm sure it will, I would ask that the facility and the program offered in the facility be of a quality equal to that which might be, or indeed is, available to other students in our separate and public schools in this province. At the same time, I would urge, assuming the passage of this bill, that a very close eye be kept on the size and cost of this facility, keeping in mind our government's professed concern about large deficit and the need for careful spending.

Keeping that in mind, I would have thought this bill would have included a provision to seek adequate facilities before charging ahead and building, but that seems to be the Tory fashion. I caution all of us—and certainly the minister—to keep an eye on this development, this school, and to be sensitive to the people of the community. Let's not build it and then forget it.

I would suggest, too, that we don't build it and twist it around to something that might serve just the advantage of the party in power; and if you don't think things can be twisted

around, I would remind you that only a few weeks ago the people of our province were subjected to some of the most distasteful advertising that I have ever seen or heard of in a political campaign, let's not lose sight of that.

In summary, I recall the words of Charles Dickens. I believe it was in "A Tale of Two Cities" but I didn't have the chance, like the member for Scarborough West, to get home at supper time. I believe near the beginning of that wonderful story it was said that, "it was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

Our dream of one Canadian identity based on two official languages, and enriched by a multicultural society, becomes more real every time one culture or one group acknowledges and accepts and works with another. When this happens we truly have, "the best of times." However, when you get to that goal or dream through delays and bickering, you have, in my opinion, "the worst of times."

I and the members of our party have thought long and hard about this, and I would say the majority is in support of this. We would have preferred to see a different type of legislation but that will not be the case, I assume. When this Act is passed, let us all set our emotions aside and work to make sure that this type of situation does not happen again.

If I may close with the words—again the member for Scarborough West might check me on this one, but I believe it's one of our minister's relative, H. G. Wells, who suggested that "civilization is a race between education and catastrophe." Let's avoid another catastrophe.

Mr. Speaker: Will there be other hon. members wishing to speak to this bill before the hon. minister sums up?

Mr. Peterson: Are you prepared to allow me the two or three minutes that are remaining this evening? I assume the minister will be winding up tomorrow. Is that correct? Or can he say everything he wants to say in two minutes?

Mr. Speaker: I think we could determine that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would be willing to ask the leader of the other parties if they wish to extend the time. We could probably wind up this debate in about 15 minutes. If there's only one other speaker in the opposition side I could wind up.

Mr. Breithaupt: We are certainly prepared, Mr. Speaker, to agree to finish this tonight.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have the permission of the House? All right.

The hon. member for London Centre.

Mr. Peterson: I will take about two minutes, Mr. Speaker. When I sat and listened to the hon. leader of the New Democratic Party, a man for whom I have an infinite amount of respect, I felt very uneasy for my colleagues from Essex North and Essex South. I felt that the member for Scarborough West unfairly placed a burden on them that really, in the circumstances, was not correct or was not fair.

Mr. Lewis: Okay.

Mr. Peterson: Anyone who observed this campaign of some weeks ago, in relation to all parties, realized the difficulty of their position; one has to assume, as I assumed, that they were honourable, fair and reasonable and sincere in their positions.

Mr. Lewis: So do I.

Mr. Peterson: Those positions were stated before the election—long before the election, when this bill first came to the House—as well as during the election and after the election.

Mr. Foulds: He wouldn't have said otherwise.

Mr. Lewis: I believe they were. Well, on a point of order, if I may—

Mr. Peterson: On a point of view, go ahead on a point of view.

[10:30]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, if I've conveyed otherwise, it was certainly not my wish. In fact I think I said at the outset that I believed the feelings and the views were genuinely held and genuinely expressed. I was asking them to reconsider on the basis of a higher matter, which they are perfectly entitled to reject and undoubtedly will. But as to the expression of the views, if one heard them tonight, they obviously felt it deeply. I don't dispute that for a moment.

Mr. Peterson: I want to say in fairness to the leader of the New Democratic Party, he should have asked some of his own people to reassess—

Mr. Foulds: He has.

Mr. Peterson:—people on whom he had more influence.

Mr. Speaker: Could we get back to the bill, please?

Mr. Peterson: I say this only in fairness and because of understanding the difficulty.

Let me say this was not just difficult for the members for Essex North and Essex South, this was difficult for every single member in our caucus, and I assume it was the same in all parties and on all sides of this House. This has been one of those very

rare issues that goes to our collective souls, that goes to our collective sensitivities and with which each one individually has to wrestle.

For me, personally, it wasn't a great problem. I'm prepared to subscribe to the views expressed by my leader. I want to point out at this time it was my leader, about a year ago, who started to talk sensitively and intelligently about the whole crisis of national unity in this country—long before the election in Quebec and concomitantly what Ontario's role was. He presented that message consistently. And I say, with a great deal of sympathy for his position in times of great difficulty, that when he was subjected to ridicule by people in all the different parties, he consistently, forcefully and sincerely carried that message.

I say when we all sit down tonight or tomorrow to vote on this bill, almost everything he said has rung true, not only on this issue but on the wider issue of Canadian unity. I say that with a great deal of pride. Believe me, as the leader of this party, like all of us in this party and many people in other parties, he has had difficulty in reconciling these two contradicting principles.

It's easy for me, as the member for London Centre, to come down on the side of bilingualism and bilingual education. I firmly believe in that. The tragedy, as has been pointed out, is that this process was not started many years ago when the warnings were there, when we had many experts warning us and telling us what should have been done.

I just say in summary, Mr. Speaker, that I felt when I walked into the House tonight I was not going to speak, but I felt obliged to say what I just said. The tragedy, like so many other tragedies, has come so late.

There's a certain genius in preventing problems. It's called in some circles the art of concealing art. Maybe one doesn't get much credit for it; but I can tell the minister that this is one of those cases that has been so mishandled that after the fact we all come back with a certain reluctance, remorse, distaste, and with a great deal of sensitivity for the people of Essex county who are feeling this even more strongly than we are. We all come back and say: "Gee, wouldn't it have been nicer if we'd all done it a lot better? Wouldn't it have been a better thing for Canada and for Ontario if more judgement had been shown and if more perspective had been shown?" That, to me, is the tragedy.

When the opposition comes to the minister with ideas and suggestions, don't immediately just discount them because they're

from the opposition, because I can tell the minister a lot of my colleagues foresaw this problem years before he foresaw it.

We say that in as constructive and positive a way as we can. Tonight we're going to support the bill. But when the minister says "for some three years you didn't press the issue as hard as you could," I say at that point he has abdicated his responsibility of government. Who is the government? You are the government and you have to take the responsibility. We are happy now to assist as best we can in the circumstances. It's not a perfect solution but we're here to assist and we'll do that happily for the sake of this great province.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would like to thank the hon. members who have taken part in this debate. I think it has been one of the most stimulating ones we've had, certainly in the last year or so. I have enjoyed the comments of some, I have smarted a little under the comments of others. I think we've all gained a little in our knowledge of the total history and relationships of these matters, particularly those that have impact on national unity. I think the historical references in many members' speeches were excellent, and certainly they enlightened all of us.

I recall that five years ago, just after I came into the Ministry of Education, I went to a meeting at the Holiday Inn in Windsor, and really was not very aware of what problems were present in that particular area, and was surprised when—

Mr. Reid: That's all right, neither was your predecessor.

Hon. Mr. Wells:—surprised when I went out to lunch to find the Holiday Inn ringed with pickets, with Franco-Ontarians who live in that area who were picketing for a French-language school. We came in and met together after, and we talked about their problems.

Now, that was five years ago and we are finally, perhaps, coming to some resolution of that particular matter. Now if any blame is to be on my shoulders—and if I was to listen many of the speeches here today—all the blame lies on my shoulders—if that's the way it is to be, so it be; but I must say, Mr. Speaker, I don't come here tonight apologizing for this piece of legislation, because if the blame has to lie on my shoulders, I will also take the initiative to do what I think is right at the particular time, and I think that this bill is right now and I do not apologize for bringing it into this House; and I am not sorry that I have to bring it in, except that the matter has not been solved locally.

Now one of my friends mentioned in his remarks, "Why are there 36 mixed schools and 24 homogeneous French-language schools in this province? Why is there a request for a new French-language secondary school in Essex county rather than the use of an existing building?"

You know I didn't hear one word, in any of the remarks tonight, about another group, the French-language advisory committee. These are people elected by their confreres in that area. They represent a minority. There are three trustees among them, at least two of whom have never gone along with the majority on the Essex county board and who have consistently, and strongly and with very heartfelt emotion, put forward the wishes of the minority, the francophone minority in Essex county. Their wish has been to have their own, not a mix but their own, homogeneous French-language secondary school. That's really what it's all about. That's why there are mixed schools in other areas of Ontario, because that's what the French-language advisory committee has recommended to the board; and there are 24 homogeneous French-language schools, because that's what the French-language advisory committee has recommended and the school boards have accepted.

Now here we have a dispute between the two. The French-language advisory committees, both in Windsor and Essex want one thing, and the school board wants another.

I can understand very well the amendment that my friend has suggested that gives more power, and a binding resolution of the matter, to the decision of the Languages of Instruction Commission. That really is no different, in its impact on local autonomy, from this bill. It is—

Mr. Roy: Ah come on; now that's wrong. Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It represents an attempt to temper what the Legislature has given in local autonomy—

Mr. Roy: We do it all the time.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Well, all right, we do it all the time. Don't criticize this bill, then, as a vicious bill that infringes on local autonomy, because it infringes in no greater way than that other bill and I say with—

Mr. Nixon: We do not enter into one community with specific instruction all the time.

Mr. Roy: That's what your man said.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Everyone has had an opportunity to speak.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I say with all respect that notwithstanding that amendment, if we had

had that amendment the matter would have been appealed to the minister and I suggest we would in all probability be here today doing the same thing.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We would have been here today—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: —doing the same thing, because the decision would have rested with the minister.

Mr. Roy: No, you have the accord; you got the decision and you got the agreement.

Hon. Mr. Wells: But in any event, I understand very clearly, and we have had here presented, by both the official oppositions, two different suggested amendments—incidentally the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) suggested one and the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) has suggested another type of amendment; and the members of the third party suggested an amendment similar to that of the member for Kitchener-Wilmot. Now I think I indicated a long time ago, when this debate began, that that kind of long-term type of amendment would be considered.

We are going to be looking at that in the total context of things that can continue to be done to improve the French-language school system in this province and to guarantee minority rights; because we believe in them, we have always worked for them and we believe that the French-language minority is entitled to their school system and we will see that they have it. But we believe that the quickest and most expedient way to handle this particular problem at this particular time is to pass this bill.

I have been personally involved with this matter for, as I say, five years. I have seen the problems, I have seen the vacillations, I have seen the kind of things that have happened. I think that we must bring it to an end now and that we must get that school built.

As I said in my opening remarks, the way I like to view this process now is that we are acting as the mediators; we are acting as the Languages of Instruction Commission; we are acting on behalf of all the people of Ontario. We are listening to what the arguments are. After all, what better court than this Legislature? I am not sorry this bill is here; I am not sorry that we are the final judges—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells:—in this particular matter. We are looking at a very interesting, a very

sorry dispute. We are now looking at it, not in terms of just a local dispute, but in terms of something that has impact upon provincial and national affairs.

Mr. Reid: Make it provincial.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We are looking at something in which we have been asked to be the mediator. Each one of you, whether you are from Essex or any other riding in this province, is now being asked to mediate in this situation. I say that we should feel proud if we feel that the solution is that the rights of the French-language minority, as represented by the French language advisory committees for Essex and Windsor and as put for many years to that board, are the right solution for that particular area in order to guarantee those minority language education rights.

If that is how we feel, we should feel proud to vote for this bill. Because we are now acting as mediators saying, "This is what we want you to do." And believe me, there is no appeal from this particular piece of legislation, because the board now has its final decision on this matter. As my friend said, once this bill passes, that then is a binding decision on that board, and I firmly hope that they will go forward and implement it.

Mr. Nixon: You hope they will go forward?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I hope that they will, and I believe that they will.

I just want to digress for a minute, because we have talked about the local members and I realize the very difficult time the local members from that area have had. I regret very much that our candidates were not on the side of the government on this particular matter. In fact, I recall speaking to one of them—I can't recall who he was—and saying to him, you know, perhaps—

Mr. Martel: Nor did the electorate.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Well, the member may be right. But I said, and I guess maybe I said this because the situation is not all that green for us in that particular area, I said, "Perhaps if you really feel that this is the right course of action, and you know that it is government policy, why not come out for it and stand up for it on greater issues than just local issues?" However, I am sorry that none of our candidates chose to support the building of that school in that particular area—

Mr. MacDonald: The member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Bounsall) did.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I fully realize that, but I am talking particularly just about our candidates.

Mr. Conway: Did the former member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Burr)?

Hon. Mr. Wells: But it's very interesting, and I think that the great import that we have—and I appreciated the leader of the third party's remarks because this is perhaps rather an historic time. We have an opportunity in some small way to have an impact on this great debate on national unity at this time, through this small, special bill for one particular area.

Mr. Reid: We haven't had one otherwise.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We have a chance here to express our opinion, and we have a chance to strike out for certain great issues. I must say on the issue of minority language rights as opposed to local autonomy there is no question which has precedence as far as I am concerned in this particular area. It is minority language rights. And I think that that has to be the kind of priority in these times in this country.

I was just glancing through a book I've got here, and it was interesting that in the last decades of the 19th century, despite the opposition of many leading English-speaking Canadians, there was a campaign to suppress the French language in English-speaking Canada. And it was gaining fair momentum. But one of the chief spokesmen, who spoke out with great force and great passion against that movement to downplay the French language in English Canada, was the major architect of Confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald.

[10:45]

At that particular time, in a debate in the House of Commons, he said these words: "I have no accord with the desire expressed in some quarters that by any mode whatever there should be any attempts made to oppress the one language, or to render it inferior to the other. I believe it would be impossible if it were tried and that it would be foolish and wicked if it were possible. Why, Mr. Speaker, if there is one act of oppression more than another which would come home to a man's breast it is that he should be deprived of the consolation of hearing and speaking and reading the language his mother taught him. It is cruel."

That was Sir John A. Macdonald speaking in the House of Commons.

Mr. MacDonald: He was addressing his remarks primarily to the Ontario Conservative leader.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think that it is our sincere wish and expectation that the Essex county board, if and when this bill is passed in this House, will in good faith follow the wishes of this Legislature and demonstrate a positive sense of leadership which can be the starting point to a return to harmonious relations throughout Essex county.

I believe, for the sake of all concerned, that all members of this Legislature should give unanimous approval to this legislation as evidence of our united commitment to the rights of our French-speaking citizens, not only in Essex county but throughout the province of Ontario.

I think that nothing short of this, in my view and in the view of this government, would be appropriate if we are really earnest in our wish to improve educational opportunities for our francophone students and, further, to strengthen harmonious relationships between French- and English-speaking citizens wherever they may be in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all may give unanimous approval to this bill and that we may move forward from here.

Mr. Speaker: As many as are in favour of Bill 3 being read the second time will please say "aye."

As many as are opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

I declare the motion carried.

Ordered for third reading.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 3, An Act to require The Essex County Board of Education to provide a French-language Secondary School.

Motion agreed to.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Wells: Before moving the adjournment of the House, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answers to questions 1, 14 and 15. (See appendix, page 699).

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the House adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 698)

Answers to written questions were tabled as follows:

1. Mr. Breithaupt—Inquiry of the ministry: 1. How many contract employees are there in each ministry and how many of those who have been hired since May 1, 1977? 2. How many casual employees are there in each ministry and how many of those who have been hired since May 1, 1977? 3. How many part-time employees are there in each ministry and how many of those who have been hired since May 1, 1977? 4. How many project workers are there in each ministry and how many of those who have been hired since May 1, 1977? 5. How many civil servants were there on May 1, 1977 and how many are there now? 6. Are all of those persons in the categories of contract, casual, part-time and project employees included in the rules governing the political activity of civil servants? [Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Auld):

The authority for hiring and a description of the various types of staff employed by the Ontario government may be found in The Public Service Act. Section 4 of Regulation 749 under this Act defines the unclassified service.

All contract employees are members of the unclassified service which is that part of the Ontario public service to which persons are appointed by a minister.

The unclassified service is divided into the following groups:

1. Group 1, consisting of employees who are employed under individual contracts in which the terms of employment are set out and who are employed: (a) on a project of a non-recurring kind; (b) in a professional or other special capacity; (c) on a temporary work assignment arranged by the commis-

sion in accordance with its program for providing temporary help; (d) for 24 hours or less during a week; (e) during their regular school college or university vacation period or under a co-operative educational training program.

2. Group 2, consisting of employees employed on a project of a seasonal or recurring kind that does not require the employees to be employed on a full-time, year-round basis.

Casual employees are hired under Group 2, part-time employees under group 1(d), project employees under group 1(a) of section 5 of regulation 749 under The Public Service Act.

All civil servants are members of the classified service which is that part of the Ontario public service to which persons are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the certificate of the Civil Service Commission.

Civil servants occupy positions of a full-time continuous nature, while contract employees occupy positions of a full-time non-continuous, part-time continuous, or part-time non-continuous sort.

The most recent figures available for numbers of staff employed in the Ontario public service are as of May 31, 1977. A comparison is provided with data obtained as of April 30, 1977. While the actual number of staff hired during the month of May is not available, the difference between the two sets of data does indicate the trend of staff numbers for that period.

It should be noted that the considerable increase in contract staff since April 30, 1977, reflects the normal seasonal fluctuation due to the employment of students generally and, in particular, casual staff in the operation of the Ontario provincial parks. A large percentage of this increase is directly attributable to the youth secretariat's Experience 77 program.

1. How many contract employees are there in each ministry and how many of those who have been hired since May 1, 1977?

Ministry	Total number as of	
	April 30, 1977	May 31, 1977
Premier's Office	30	39
Cabinet Office and Policy Field Secretariats*	79	164
Management Board	11	18
Civil Service Commission	78	75
Government Services	595	488
Revenue	162	327
Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs	197	218
Northern Affairs	0	25

Ministry	Total number as of	
	April 30, 1977	May 31, 1977
Attorney General	1,652	1,876
Consumer and Commercial Relations	412	502
Correctional Services	1,272	1,459
Solicitor General	448	471
Agriculture and Food	562	639
Energy	17	21
Environment	349	780
Housing**	301	356
Industry & Tourism***	184	198
Labour	135	418
Natural Resources	3,811	7,344
Transportation and Communications	1,422	1,821
Colleges and Universities	178	229
Community and Social Services	1,394	1,610
Culture and Recreation	799	1,058
Education	423	424
Health	1,240	1,601
Total	15,571	22,179

* Includes Niagara Escarpment Commission

** Includes Ontario Housing Corporation and Ontario Mortgage Corporation

*** Includes Ontario Place Corporation and Ontario Development Corporation.

2. How many casual employees are there in each ministry and how many of those who have been hired since May 1, 1977?

Ministry	Total number as of	
	April 30, 1977	May 31, 1977
Premier's Office	—	—
Cabinet Office and Policy Field Secretariats*	—	—
Management Board	—	—
Civil Service Commission	—	—
Government Services	17	23
Revenue	—	—
Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs	—	—
Northern Affairs	—	—
Attorney General	—	—
Consumer and Commercial Relations	9	14
Correctional Services	—	—
Solicitor General	—	—
Agriculture and Food	141	132
Energy	—	—
Environment	3	3
Housing**	—	—
Industry and Tourism***	—	—
Labour	2	7
Natural Resources	2,197	4,285
Transportation and Communications	1,020	766
Colleges and Universities	—	—
Community and Social Services	3	2
Culture and Recreation	97	133
Education	215	227
Health	9	8
Total	3,713	5,600

* Includes Niagara Escarpment Commission

** Includes Ontario Housing Corporation and Ontario Mortgage Corporation

*** Includes Ontario Place Corporation and Ontario Development Corporation

Note: Casual Employees are contract employees and are, therefore, included in the numbers reported in question 1.

3. How many part-time employees are there in each ministry and how many of those who have been hired since May 1, 1977?

Ministry	Total number as of	
	April 30, 1977	May 31, 1977
Premier's Office	—	—
Cabinet Office and Policy Field Secretariats*	—	—
Management Board	—	—
Civil Service Commission	33	32
Government Services	30	27
Revenue	9	11
Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs	6	6
Northern Affairs	—	—
Attorney General	1,383	1,392
Consumer and Commercial Relations	80	77
Correctional Services	961	1,000
Solicitor General	371	380
Agriculture and Food	173	156
Energy	—	—
Environment	29	29
Housing**	8	8
Industry and Tourism***	—	—
Labour	3	3
Natural Resources	124	146
Transportation and Communications	37	61
Colleges and Universities	1	8
Community and Social Services	462	459
Culture and Recreation	100	95
Education	28	29
Health	683	673
Total	4,521	4,592

* Includes the Niagara Escarpment Commission

** Includes Ontario Housing Corporation and Ontario Mortgage Corporation

*** Includes Ontario Place Corporation and Ontario Development Corporation

Note: Part-time employees are contract employees and are, therefore, included in the numbers reported in question 1.

4. How many project workers are there in each ministry and how many of those who have been hired since May 1, 1977?

Ministry	Total number as of	
	April 30, 1977	May 31, 1977
Premier's Office	—	—
Cabinet Office and Field Secretariats*	—	48
Management Board	2	2
Civil Services Commission	12	12
Government Services	23	23
Revenue	24	22
Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs	118	71
Northern Affairs	—	2
Attorney General	53	54
Consumer and Commercial Relations	198	205
Correctional Services	95	99
Solicitor General	44	43
Agriculture and Food	74	73
Energy	7	6
Environment	93	99
Housing**	84	81

Ministry	Total number as of	
	April 30, 1977	May 31, 1977
Industry and Tourism***	49	53
Labour	19	20
Natural Resources	143	152
Transportation and Communications	41	47
Colleges and Universities	18	16
Community and Social Services	56	71
Culture and Recreation	44	55
Education	4	4
Health	109	108
Total	1,310	1,366

* Includes the Niagara Escarpment Commission

** Includes Ontario Housing Corporation and Ontario Mortgage Corporation

*** Includes Ontario Place Corporation and Ontario Development Corporation

Note: Project workers are contract employees and are, therefore, included in the numbers reported in question 1.

5. How many civil servants were there on May 1, 1977, and how many are there now?

	Total number as of	
	April 30, 1977	May 31, 1977
Civil Servants	63,224	63,373
OPP Uniform and Security Guards	4,166	4,158
Environment Plant Operators	533	536
Total	67,923	68,067

6. Are all of those persons in the categories of contract, casual, part-time and project employees included in the rules governing the political activity of civil servants?

Sections 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16 of The Public Service Act, covering political activities refer to Crown employees. The unclassified service referred to in the question are Crown employees. Therefore, these sections apply to the unclassified service.

14. Mr. Reid—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Government Services indicate when work began on the ramp between the north wing and the main building of the Legislative Building, when work is to be completed, and how much the cost will be? [Tabled June 29, 1977.]

Answer by the Acting Minister of Government Services (Mr. Auld):

Work began on the ramp between the north wing and the main building of the legislative building on February 22, 1977. This project is planned for completion in September 1977. The total estimate of cost for this project is \$212,000.

15. Mr. Reid—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Energy table all information in regard to Ontario's participation in Syncrude, particularly: (a) the amounts of money that Ontario has already advanced to the project; (b) the amount still to be advanced; and (c) any changes in

the original agreement and consortium of Syncrude? [Tabled June 29, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Energy (Mr. J. A. Taylor):

Ontario's participation in the Syncrude project is being carried out by the Ontario Energy Corporation. The 1976 annual report of the corporation, which contains information on the project, has been tabled and copies were distributed to all members recently.

In addition, the final Syncrude project agreements covering the revised participation arrangements were executed on April 30, 1976, and tabled in the Legislature the following week.

With respect to your specific questions:

(a) OEC investment in the Syncrude project up to March 31, 1977 is \$60 million;

(b) The OEC will continue to advance its five per cent share of funds required to complete the construction of the project and will then share proportionately in the operating revenues. The project is on schedule to commence production in 1978 and, as noted in the OEC annual report, the estimated cost of construction is about \$2,160 million.

(c) There have been no changes to the agreements which were signed on April 30, 1976. The Syncrude participants are as listed in these agreements with the exception of Petro-Canada being assigned the 15 per cent interest of the federal government.

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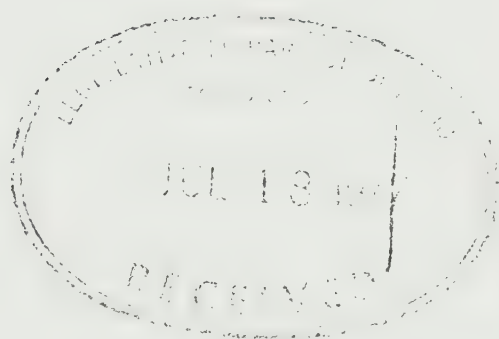
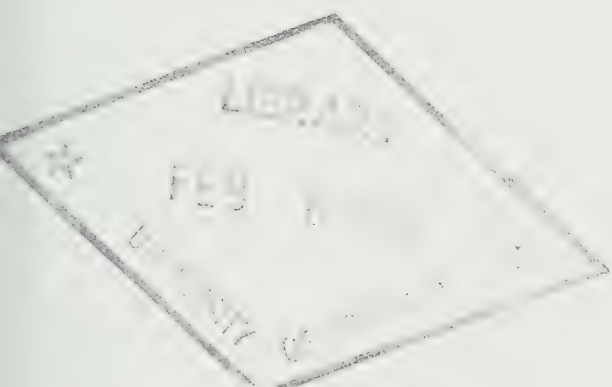
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No. 19

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament

Tuesday, July 12, 1977

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, Q.C.

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Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

BEVERAGE CONTAINER TAX

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Speaker, I would like at this time to inform the House of the status of legislation with respect to the taxing of pop cans in Ontario.

More than two years ago my predecessor, the Hon. William Newman, told representatives of the soft-drink industry that this government's policy was to effect a substantial increase in the use of refillable containers for their product. I would stress to hon. members that this policy has not changed.

The investigations and studies that led to the development of this policy have been exhaustive. They began with the Littering Control Council of Ontario in 1970, followed by a solid-waste task force three years later.

This task force received more than 70 written submissions from 11 sectors of the industry, consumers' associations, conservationists, environmental groups and many municipalities. It held public hearings and finally produced a report with recommendations based on more research and input and discussions with the industry concerned than in any other state or provincial jurisdiction.

The government outlined to the industry in 1975, the steps it felt must be taken by industry to achieve our objective of making more refillable bottles available. The newly-formed Waste Management Advisory Board monitored this program of voluntary action and reported in early 1976 that it had not succeeded. The board then suggested a number of alternatives to the government, including a phased-in ban on all throw-away carbonated soft-drink containers, including cans.

Our policy was announced in regulation 687/76, which was filed in August 1976. Its principal component was mandatory availability of refillable bottles by brand, flavour and size. In other words, if a retailer sold soft drinks in throw-away con-

tainers, he must also carry refillable containers in matching sizes, flavours and brands. We also reduced to three the number of sizes of containers to be handled by retailers.

This brought a fresh wave of industry response and I asked the board to conduct additional hearings and meetings with the industry. These culminated in a three-hour meeting with cabinet in February of this year when the government acknowledged the hardship that the brand availability requirement could have on certain bottlers who handle soft drinks in refillable bottles only. Our regulation was substantially amended to require mandatory availability by flavour and size only.

The government's intentions were made very clear at the time—that these regulations in conjunction with further action to be taken, were to form a complete package. It is vital to appreciate that each element of the package plays an important part in its overall effectiveness.

Let me remind the hon. members what the elements of this package are: 1. the mandatory availability by flavour and size of refillables whenever non-refillables are displayed for sale; 2. the display of full price information to the consumer, such that the amount of the deposit is shown separately from the selling price of the product; 3. the ban on non-refillable bottles effective April 1, 1978; 4. the ban on the detachable flip-top can, which was effective last July 1; 5. the tax on the can, which is the subject of the bill now before the House.

The elements of this package have been painstakingly developed to satisfy two fundamental objectives of the policy—one environmental, the other economic. The environmental goal is to reduce solid waste litter, and to save energy and non-renewable resources associated with throw-away carbonated soft-drink packaging. The economic goal is to ensure that the pace of adjustment, the rate of change—particularly the unemployment and investment dislocations in the industries—can be assimilated over a reasonable time frame.

I asked the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) to introduce a tax on the can as the means of

completing the package, rather than proposing a deposit system or a complete ban. From the environmental aspect, a ban would be completely effective, but has several overriding disadvantages of which the main one is its immediate dramatic and undesirable effect on employment in the metal container and supporting industries, coupled with the associated loss of investment.

This would be the most extreme form of government intervention and it is therefore surprising that the New Democratic Party is opposed to a tax, the purpose of which is to phase down the use of the can, when its official party policy has been to ban the can by 1981.

Mr. Lewis: Because we are opposed to extreme forms of government intervention.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The second alternative of a deposit-refund system justifies more consideration, and it must be clearly understood that there are two distinct and clearly separate forms this system can take.

First, there is the form used in Oregon and other states in the United States which requires retailers to receive non-refillables back for refund, with all the disruption that this involves in a retail store not geared to receiving them. The result in Oregon was strenuous objection to the handling of empty cans by the retailers and the almost immediate delisting of cans by the retailers. In the first year, can sales in the state dropped by 90 per cent.

If adopted in Ontario, this plan could create a severe and sudden impact on employment in the metal container industry over which the government would have no control. By this system, there is really no consumer marketplace solution, since the retailers control the delisting and there is no revenue generated for the government for environmental programs. Energy benefits are, however, achieved.

The other form of the deposit-refund system is the one that involves the establishment of depots for the specific purpose of receiving back the empty beverage containers. From experience in other jurisdictions it would cost roughly \$25 million to set up such a depot system in Ontario and this cost would ultimately be passed on to consumers in the price of their soft drinks.

Under this system, the retailers' problems are eliminated, can sales are not significantly affected and there is little, if any, increase in the use of single-drink-size returnable bottles. Litter is reduced, but experience to date shows little saving in solid-waste volumes or energy consumption.

By imposing a tax rather than an outright ban or deposit system, consumer choice is retained and the impact on employment is less severe and less dramatic. When the employment effects for the total policy package are reviewed, there should be an increase in the total number of jobs in the industry despite the loss of some skilled production positions. The gains will occur in the distribution system to handle the flow of returnable bottles. There would also be a significant number of jobs created by the expenditure of can tax revenue for recycling depots and reclamation plants.

It has been pointed out recently by the Ontario Soft Drink Association that the regulations already passed, which ban the non-refillable bottles and impose flavour and size availability requirements, have caused a swing to refillable containers during the last few months.

On this basis, the association claims no further action is required, since the government's objectives are already being achieved. Such a claim ignores completely the integrated effect of the policy package that I described earlier; it ignores the purpose of introducing mandatory flavour and size availability requirements, and it ignores the inequity and loss of effectiveness if unilateral action is taken against throwaway bottles.

If no policy action is taken now against the can, it would be hard indeed to resist the pressures that would arise to have the ban on the non-refillable bottles lifted. The policy has already produced results, as acknowledged by the association; however, the momentum that has been initiated must be maintained by completing the policy package, of which the tax is an essential feature.

Hon. members know that a number of the larger municipalities in this province have sought through private members' bills, municipal bylaws or council resolutions to ban throwaways within their jurisdiction. I think it is important that we deal with this problem on a province-wide basis rather than by such a piecemeal approach.

Assuming a shift of 25 per cent in the sale of cans to refillables in the first year, the environmental benefits from our integrated soft-drink container package are: 340 million fewer soft-drink containers become solid waste; a 40 per cent reduction in solid waste resulting from soft-drink packaging; and an energy saving of approximately 23 per cent of the total container energy required by soft-drink packaging in Ontario, which energy saving could heat approximately 8,000 homes, representing a community of about 25,000 people.

It is, however, clear that the opposition will not allow the government to proceed with the bill as it is now presented. Nevertheless, the bill does represent government policy and will remain on the order paper for discussion again in the fall. In the meantime, I will be seeking consultation with the opposition House leaders and appropriate critics as well as spokesmen for the soft-drink and packaging industries in an effort to seek some consensus.

Mr. Lewis: Minority government; it's wonderful. Imagine, consultation written into a ministerial statement.

HARTT INQUIRY

Hon. Mr. Kerr: I would like to announce, Mr. Speaker, that the government has decided the inquiry respecting development in northern Ontario, which was originally intended to proceed under a proposed amendment to The Environmental Assessment Act, will now proceed as a royal commission under The Public Inquiries Act.

Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt will be the commissioner and his terms of reference will be consistent with those tabled with the amendment to The Environmental Assessment Act that was presented to the House.

It is with regret that the government takes this course of action. In our opinion it would have been preferable to proceed by the amendment—

Mr. Reid: True democracy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —this would have added considerable strength to The Environmental Assessment Act, which is already one of the finest pieces of environmental legislation of its kind on the continent.

An hon. member: It kills people.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: But the government has been given little choice in the matter because of the announced intention of the Leader of the Opposition to introduce an amendment linking the closing of the English-Wabigoon river system—

Mr. Nixon: Which you favoured.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —to the passage of this very important legislation—

Mr. Breithaupt: You were in favour of that, weren't you?

Mr. S. Smith: The minister was in favour of it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: —an amendment which the NDP has publicly stated it would support.

Those hon. members familiar with parliamentary procedures will be aware of the

American tradition of preconditioned precedent.

Mr. Nixon: You were in favour of it until somebody wrote it down for you.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: This refers to the tendency to burden important bills with so many dysfunctional amendments that the main purpose of the bill is grossly distorted or the bill is never passed into law.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: It is a tradition alien to the British parliamentary system, a system that has served this country and this province so effectively.

Mr. Cassidy: It's just not tried—just untried.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: You don't want to test it before the House, though.

Mr. Conway: Since when did the Premier care about the British parliamentary system?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister has the floor.

[2:15]

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Both the need for a public inquiry into the development of the north and the problems associated with the English-Wabigoon river are of great concern to this government, but one should not be tied to the other.

Mr. Nixon: With all the criticism, you are afraid to test it before this House.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: The government has made it quite clear that we intend to work with the Indians towards the development of long-range programs that will provide employment and enhance the dignity of the Indian people. We would hope to discuss some of these approaches with the Indians during the summer.

Mr. McClellan: Development of long-range problems.

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Meanwhile the government does not feel that it can allow any further delay in the Hartt inquiry. Therefore, we have decided to exercise the government's option in this matter by way of order in council to ensure that Mr. Justice Hartt may proceed with the hearings as quickly as possible. That order in council will be presented to cabinet tomorrow, once Mr. Justice Hartt has had an opportunity to ensure that the proposed terms of reference are satisfactory to him.

Speaking for the government, I would like to express my regret to Mr. Justice Hartt for the delays. At the same time, I trust I can

assure him he will receive the utmost co-operation needed to conduct a full and fair inquiry from all sides of the House.

Mr. S. Smith: Democracy wins again.

ORAL QUESTIONS

PARKWAY BELT

Mr. S. Smith: I have a question for the Premier in the absence of the Treasurer. With respect to the report of the hearing officers on the parkway belt west, can the Premier explain what the Treasurer meant when he said in a press release that he leaned "towards accepting the hearing officer's recommendations, unless contrary evidence was introduced in the course of his review", and when he said in a letter to the city of Oakville: "I hope that we can have your brief available to me no later than May 15, 1977"? How does that correspond with the Treasurer's refusal now to consider the comprehensive brief which Oakville prepared at considerable cost, a refusal which is set out in his letter of June 24 to the clerk of Oakville?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'll try to take them in chronological order. I think when the report was presented, the Treasurer made it quite clear he would be reluctant to recommend to his cabinet colleagues any significant changes in the recommendations made by the hearing officers. I'm sure all members would agree with that in principle.

I think he also made it clear that if there were representations to be made by any municipality or individuals who did not agree with the hearing officer's recommendations, and where they thought there were some very valid circumstances that should be brought to the attention of the Treasurer and his officials, these would be considered in their final recommendation to cabinet; he offered that availability to them.

Because there is great concern and desire on the part not only of the municipalities but of the individuals and organizations affected by the parkway belt west which would like to see some finality, I think the Treasurer made it quite clear he would like to have the submissions or representations by whatever date the Leader of the Opposition refers to, which I don't think was unreasonable. I haven't seen anything from the town of Oakville—I believe it is still a town, not yet a city—although the town of Oakville may now have submitted a brief some several weeks after the date scheduled.

I guess the problem is that the Treasurer wants to bring finality to this and it is possible the town of Oakville was somewhat

late in its submission. I can't help the Leader of the Opposition any more than that. I can only say to him that we are most anxious to give finality to the parkway belt west. A number of decisions are pending, and I think it's important for all concerned that the final decision be rendered as soon as possible. I think that is the sole intent of what the Treasurer has said.

Mr. S. Smith: Supplementary: I believe the Premier is well-meaning but mistaken in this regard. I would like to quote and then ask a question. I quote from a letter by the Treasurer on June 24 to Oakville where he said: "When I received Oakville's submission"—which by the way was put in on time—"I sought the advice of law officers of the Ministry of the Attorney General and I have now been advised by them that under statutes in law"—and so on and so forth—"it's not appropriate for me to consider submissions in the preparation of my recommendation to cabinet." It turns out that he considers he's prevented from receiving these.

I would ask the Premier, especially since many of the lands that were struck out from the parkway belt were done so at the instigation of no one other than the hearing officers themselves in many instances, whether the Premier feels it is fair and reasonable for the Treasurer now to reject this report, which he himself requested, and for him not to read it at all before giving his decision to cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's a question of just what is fair. If the Treasurer has been advised that under the legislation he is not legally permitted to have formal submissions or to have them form the base for any final submission to cabinet, then of course he has to be bound by the legislation.

I think it is also fair to state, in my limited knowledge of it, that most of the alterations made by the hearing officers, and I think I'm right in this, came about at the request of some of the people who were affected in the parkway belt. Some of the changes did not, but I think a number did; that's my best recollection. I'm only familiar with that part that is now in my own riding, which wasn't materially altered in terms of the decision of the hearing officers; I can't speak with the same knowledge of those areas in Mississauga and in Halton.

If the Treasurer has said to Oakville that he is precluded by statute from treating their submission in a formal sense, then I think the Leader of the Opposition would want the Treasurer of this province to observe the

statutes that we all passed here in this House. He is subject to those and I'm sure will discharge his responsibilities related to the statutory authority that has been given to him, because the Leader of the Opposition is always looking for statutory authority.

Mr. S. Smith: Another supplementary, if I might, on this topic, Mr. Speaker: In the border land between Oakville and Mississauga, all of the cross-hatched lands indicated on this map were excluded at the instigation of the hearing officers and no one else. Hence, no one has had a chance for any input on those lands. In view of this and the fact that the statutes can be amended in this House, would the Premier and the Treasurer consider amending the statutes to permit Oakville's brief to be considered before a decision is brought down with regard to the parkway belt west?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think here's a fairly basic concern—I'm just speaking now in response to a question without careful reflection, but in that some questions are asked without careful reflection, I guess I can give an answer without careful reflection.

Mr. Reid: You usually do.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't say this particular question.

Mr. Macdonald: Then why the comment?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would only say to the Leader of the Opposition that we could amend the legislation, obviously. It could be amended sometime in mid-fall. If by amending the legislation we then started the debate on the parkway belt west all over again, we are then talking about a confirmation that probably wouldn't take place until 1978. And I say with respect to the Leader of the Opposition that for those who are affected by it, as members in this House and those who have been contacted over the years about the length of time it has taken the government to deal with it, I think most of them would share my point of view that it is in everybody's interest to have finality to this as soon as possible. I see a fairly lengthy time problem.

I would also say to the Leader of the Opposition that in his consultation, the Treasurer has available to him those people who were by and large responsible for the initial plan that was laid before the municipalities and the public. I'm sure the Treasurer will have an opportunity to discuss with them the rationale as to why that particular cross-hatched area was in and why the hearing officers suggested it be out. Thus, I think Oakville's concerns to a certain

extent, will be accommodated as far as consideration is concerned, by those people who initially suggested it be in, if the member can follow the logic of that argument.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition with a new question.

Mr. S. Smith: Would it be unreasonable to ask for one more supplementary on this?

Mr. Speaker: I thought you said that was your final supplementary.

Mr. S. Smith: I thought it was, but—

Mr. Speaker: It's your time.

Mr. S. Smith: Basically what I want to know is, does the Premier agree then that the Treasurer was in error in inviting this response in the first place? Is he suggesting that Oakville might approach some of the officers of the ministry rather than the Treasurer himself and get the information across that way?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the first part of the question.

Mr. S. Smith: I was asking if the Premier would agree that the Treasurer was in error in inviting this response in the first place? Secondly, would he suggest that Oakville perhaps approach people within the ministry so that its view can be relayed in that manner to the Treasurer before his decision is made?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Their local member will look after it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. S. Smith: The Minister of Transportation and Communications hasn't done much.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Premier has the floor.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: As the hon. member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk points out so properly on this occasion, Mr. Speaker, the local member has been looking after his constituents so well for so many years that in this particular situation I'm sure that interest will be continued.

I can't say whether the Treasurer was in error. I haven't discussed it with the Treasurer. We have always attempted, in matters of this kind, to give as much opportunity as is reasonable for people or municipalities to make their points of view known.

Mr. Sargent: Where's he hiding today?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. "distinguished" member—in quotes I say that—for Grey-Bruce wants to ask me, as one of his important questions today, where the

Treasurer is at precisely this moment I will be delighted to answer that if he gets up and asks me the question.

Mr. Sargent: He's hiding behind the curtains again.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was interrupted, Mr. Speaker. Was it an interjection?

Mr. S. Smith: Should they talk to the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wouldn't advise that. I will discuss it with the Treasurer.

QUEBEC LANGUAGE LEGISLATION

Mr. S. Smith: I have a separate question for the Premier. I recall the fanfare with which it was announced that legal advice would be sought on the constitutionality of the proposed French-language changes in Quebec—the so-called Bill 1, which is now being retitled Bill 101. Can the Premier tell us whether he has, as yet, received a report from his legal advisers regarding the constitutionality of Quebec legislation in this regard, and if he has received a report will he be tabling it in the House?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge I have not received a report at this moment. I would think any report should reflect the possible changes in the legislation which, I understand, is being introduced this afternoon in Quebec City.

I would say to the Leader of the Opposition that when we have a chance to look at Bill 101, which I'm told it will be titled, when we assess that, which we may, I would be quite prepared at the appropriate time, if we have some legal opinions, to share them with members of the House. But with all the discussion that has gone on over the proposed alterations, I think any assessment of it probably should relate to the revised bill that is being introduced, I understand, this afternoon.

Mr. S. Smith: By way of a brief supplementary: In view of the importance of any advice received and action taken on this and other related matters, is the Premier prepared to accept my suggestion that the three leaders act in unison and form a leaders' council on matters of national unity so that, at least in that regard, Ontario is always perceived as speaking with one voice?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I always feel on issues of any kind that the government, and on occasion the Premier, is speaking for the people of this province, not just related to this very important issue of national unity but on those other controversial issues that

we get before us in this House from time to time. Really, it would be an abdication of the responsibility of the Leader of the Opposition to become part of an enclosed council where he would then not be in a position to effectively discharge his role as he should as the leader of Her Majesty's official opposition. I would hope that view is shared by the leader of the New Democratic Party, because that is how the system works in this province.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, oh, my caucus has prohibited me from joining such a council—a cautious motion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would be delighted, Mr. Speaker, as this discussion across Canada continues over the weeks and months and, who knows, the years that lie ahead, that we have an opportunity to discuss those matters in this House. I'm always appreciative of any public support I receive from any members opposite on any issue—

Mr. Warner: Tell him you will resign then.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —and if the Leader of the Opposition feels so inclined from time to time to support the position taken by this government I certainly would not reject that. But I think the concept of a leaders' council really is contrary to the principles of this Legislature. I think it would put the Leader of the Opposition in a very questionable position of conflict, and I say that in the nice sense of the word—

Mr. Lewis: But in excellent company, if in conflict.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I wouldn't quarrel for a moment as to the excellence of the company. I really think if he would assess what I'm saying on careful reflection, he would see that probably he can more effectively discharge his responsibilities in the traditional role of the Leader of the Opposition.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I could take half an hour on that.

Mr. Speaker: One final supplementary because we've spent 13 minutes on this.

Mr. Cassidy: Yes, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: In view of the fact that since the Premier asked for that legal opinion about Bill 1, the bill has been debated intensively all across Quebec, it has been debated in the press right across the country and has now got to the point where a redraft of the bill is being presented, was the original request for that legal opinion with regard to

the government a genuine request for information, or was it in fact political grandstanding prior to the Ontario election?

2:30]

An hon. member: You should know lots about that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, unlike the member for Ottawa Centre, I am very naive in these matters and I don't know what political grandstanding is.

Mr. MacDonald: Of course you do. You are doing it now.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He demonstrates it very effectively in this House and it is one of his attributes I don't intend to follow. And his leader knows that's true.

An hon. member: He's grandstanding for the leadership.

An hon. member: Elie, your stock is going 'way down.

HARTT INQUIRY

Mr. Lewis: Relax, all you people; let the same duck have his chance.

May I ask a question of the Premier, Mr. Speaker: Would he comment on the explicit reference on page two of the Minister of the Environment's statement about the intention of the government to deal in more specific areas over the summer with matters arising from the problems of the English-Wabigoon? Can he be any more explicit about the government's intentions?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, as I look at the second paragraph on page two, it makes it quite clear and I think I can say to the hon. members that the minister really was pretty non-provocative in his statements. I think the minister could have assessed part of the difficulties we are in and laid a good part of the responsibility on the members opposite, and I say that in a very constructive sense—

Mr. MacDonald: Answer the question.

Mr. Riddell: The Premier is never provocative.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am never provocative.

Mr. MacDonald: Answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. Premier please continue the answer and ignore the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member for York South is feeling sensitive.

Mr. MacDonald: No, I am not feeling sensitive.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, you are.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You used to be one of the great environmentalists.

Mr. MacDonald: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. MacDonald: My point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that if a member of the opposition wanders from his question unduly, you bring him to order; if the Premier wanders, he wanders at will, and that's what I was trying to check.

Mr. Breithaupt: We can never tell with the Premier, though.

Mr. Conway: How can you tell when he is not wandering?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have suggested that we ignore the interjections but there should be no interjections in the first place. Will the hon. Premier continue with the answer to the original question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, on that point of order I would only say to the member for York South: At least when I wander, I wander at will; it is not by misadventure, like some of his colleagues.

Mr. MacDonald: That's a matter of judgement.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I mean I like to think I know where I am wandering.

Mr. Speaker: Now, the answer. Order, please.

Mr. MacDonald: Answer the question.

Mr. Eaton: The Premier is getting to you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the leader of the New Democratic Party that as I read the minister's statement, he made it very clear that certainly this government—as he has expressed and I and others have expressed on a number of occasions—is very concerned with respect to the situation on the English-Wabigoon, and that we do not relate and did not relate and will not relate the passage of what I think was good legislation to that particular problem, and that is why we are going the route of the public inquiry.

In the third paragraph on page two the minister stated, and I think properly so, that we intend to work with the Indians towards the development of long-range programs. This is not confined and does not relate exclusively to the English-Wabigoon. It relates to the intent of this government to work with the native people throughout the province of Ontario—not just in the northwest or the northeast, because we also want to work with the native people in southern Ontario in terms of development of longer-term eco-

conomic policies. Obviously this has more application in some communities than in others.

I would point out to the leader of the New Democratic Party that a week ago tomorrow we received what I think are some very constructive presentations from the native people of this province. We are assessing all of them very carefully and hope to be in a position over the summer months to respond in a positive way to some of those presentations made to us.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: With the information he has at hand after all this time, can the Premier tell us whether in fact there is a danger to health from eating the fish on the English-Wabigoon system, and if so, why he does not close down the system?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Is the hon. member in favour of that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the question obviously is, to a certain extent, an oversimplification. The concern of the government—and I guess we could discuss this at great length—has been obviously with respect to the health of the native people. We have also said—and I think the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. F. S. Miller) phrased this quite well—that we do not regard the simple act of closing, which the hon. member himself knows better than anyone else is almost totally unenforceable—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He knows that; let him admit it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We could, I guess, pass a regulation saying we will close 200 miles of a river system. Our concern is that we are looking for more practical, long-term solutions—

Mr. Cassidy: You have been saying that for eight years.

Hon. Mr. Davis: —than just a simplistic closing which in itself could not solve the problem, which probably is unenforceable and which we do not think at this moment is a practical solution.

Mr. Cassidy: The Minister of the Environment thinks it is enforceable.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are as anxious as anyone in this Legislature to find a viable, practical solution to the problem faced by the native people in those two reserves, and we are working conscientiously to see whether something can be found. I just say to the hon. member, who is relatively familiar with that area, that we sincerely believe a simplistic closing is not in itself the solution to the problem and that's why we have not opted for it.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Is this a supplementary?

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I'm sorry I didn't recognize the hon. member before. He may ask a supplementary now.

Mr. Lewis: Leaving aside the matter of the closing—we understand the government's position; it has been debated before and will be debated again—is it possible to work into the consultative process, which the Premier has in mind in the immediate future, members of the Legislature from other than the government party, since clearly this is something which involves the Legislature as a whole and since clearly there has been great difficulty in achieving the constructive solutions which the Premier himself and the Minister of Natural Resources said were unattainable during the course of the campaign. Can we try another approach at this point in time?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Quite sincerely, Mr. Speaker, I assess—we are facetious about it here on occasion and joke about it a bit—I quite objectively assess constructive proposals that are made by members opposite. I have done that since having some responsibility here in 1962, and a few members who have been here during that length of time realize—I am sorry to wander a little bit, Mr. Speaker, but even in the old days in Education—

Mr. Reid: Trying to blame the school system on us?

Hon. Mr. Davis: —we found ways of developing constructive suggestions from across the House—and there were some, including some from the member for York South—and they ultimately became government policy.

I have looked at the suggestion from the leader of the New Democratic Party, and I have assessed it very carefully. It wasn't just a question of a political rejection out of hand. The issue is too serious for that; it is of too great concern to me personally, and I am sure to all of us. While considering it, Mr. Speaker, the reason that I have questioned its practicality at this moment is that I really doubt that an all-party committee of this House could bring the measure of objectivity and perhaps to a certain extent the expertise—although we all have feelings and views about it—that some sort of structure, if it could be developed, might entail.

I am not rejecting at all the genuine interest of the leader of the New Democratic Party, or his knowledge or that of his col-

leagues. But I am concerned on an issue of this sensitivity whether an all-party committee, as he suggested, would in fact come up with a solution that would be totally objective, in that we are all human and we all have our biases and points of view before even sitting on a committee of that nature.

Mr. Cassidy: It's better to have the biases of the Minister of Northern Affairs, is that right?

Mr. Stokes: What are you going to do?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Very simply, that's why I have been hesitant and reluctant to accept what I have always treated as being a constructive suggestion. I don't belittle it in any way, shape or form.

Mr. Lewis: I am not sure that I meant anything quite so formal as that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Grey-Bruce with a final supplementary.

Mr. Sargent: I would like to ask the Premier whether he has any concern in regard to the time factors involved here. Is it going to take five years? Is he going to set limitations on this inquiry as to whether it should be 18 months, two years or five years? Isn't that important to him?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would only say to the member for Grey-Bruce—and I assume he is referring to the inquiry that will be conducted by Mr. Justice Hartt under the order in council we will be passing tomorrow morning or sometime around noon—that we are anxious to have this move ahead. It must be very evident to him, if not to his colleagues—and I assume it is—that our urgency is demonstrated very clearly by the fact we are going to pass that order in council, instead of having what I think would have been a better approach, that is the unanimous approval of this House to the amendments to the bill that would have put this inquiry in place. It became impossible for us to do that and we're demonstrating our sense of urgency and our concern by using the vehicle of the order in council.

Mr. Sargent: Don't give us doubletalk. Is the government going to set time limits on it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I just wish this urgency were shared by some of the members opposite.

Mr. Sargent: This is doubletalk.

Mr. Kerrio: Answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That was the final supplementary.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Lewis: A question to the Minister of Health: Can he explain to the Legislature what prompted officials in his ministry—I think it was Mr. Chatfield, in fact, to name him precisely—or what possessed them to issue this clarification to psychiatric hospitals and institutions dealing with the treatment of children, to say that charges could be laid, I guess in various circumstances, against children in their care? I don't understand what prompted all that.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Let's first of all clarify that this went to the administrators of all psychiatric hospitals affecting the care of all patients. It wasn't aimed at any particular client group or age group or whatever.

The reasons for it arise out of concerns expressed, as I understand it, by some administrators as to the rights of the individual before the law and the concerns expressed by some of the legal counsel in the Ministry of Health that there had to be a clarification, that we had no right—this Legislature has no right—to take away the right of an individual to seek redress before the courts.

In clarifying this I also want to make it clear that we are not in any way encouraging any more use of this recourse by anyone, either in an official capacity or in a personal capacity. The important thing to remember, and my predecessor stressed this, is to ensure that the minister's office knows of any potential action. Even when people take action in a personal way we must still be advised so that we can be sure everything is quite correct as to the mode and type of care being given to that particular patient, be he a child or an adult.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary; it is quite clear then that this clarification doesn't alter the decision arising, I guess it was from the Norma Dean case and other matters, around the thoughtless and at times unjustifiable abuse of the procedure in certain of the government treatment centres? The ministry is not shifting ground now on this basis?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Let me, if I may, read to the member the last paragraph of the memorandum which may, or should, allay his concerns: "I would, however, request that administrators inform the ministry whenever a criminal charge is laid by an employee against an adolescent patient." This is getting at the member's specific concern. "Although as indicated above the employee is perfectly

free to lay such a charge, the minister should be aware of all such charges as they arise."

This gets to the point that while the individual, as we're advised by our legal counsel, has certain rights before the law to lay certain charges, we want to be sure we are in a position, if we want, to have the opportunity to offer additional representation in a court of law as to where the adolescent should eventually be placed and under what terms and what kind of program.

So in short, we're not shifting ground.

Mr. McClellan: Supplementary: Given that the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) has expressed unequivocal disapproval at the practice of charging adolescents by so-called therapeutic staff and has expressed dismay at instances brought to her attention, may I ask the minister if he has discussed this policy change with the provincial secretary; and if not would he go back and review this policy with her?

[2:45]

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the member is asking me to repeal the common law.

Mr. Lewis: By way of one last supplementary: Could the minister table all this for us? Could he table the memorandum and let us see what is going out to the staff.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: If the House adjourns today, I will send it to the hon member. One way or the other I will get it to him.

HOSPITAL SERVICE IN OWEN SOUND

Mr. Sargent: A question of the Minister of Health: In view of the fact that I would like to ask a question about hospital closings generally, I know, Mr. Speaker, you will want to welcome the mayor of the city of Owen Sound, Bob Rutherford, Alderman Bob Gallen, Alderman Ovid Jackson and the city clerk, Al Hancock. They are down here in support, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Eaton: I thought we were not supposed to do this any more.

Mr. Sargent: Thank you. The mayor is a good Tory; there's a good Tory.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I certainly want to welcome the mayor of Owen Sound, no question about that.

Mr. Speaker: Now after the transgression, will the hon. member ask a question?

Mr. Sargent: Since the minister can't get his act together on a new hospital for Owen Sound, and has now come up with a merger—with deadlines set by June 1, 1977, before the election—will he advise the House when he will decide on this merger; and will all

the commitments regarding pensions and job protection be honoured?

In other words, where do we stand?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, discussions are continuing between the administration and board of the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital with our people in the Ministry of Health who are responsible for the operation of the Dr. Mackinnon Phillips Hospital. There are certain aspects as regards benefits about which we in the Ministry of Health have put forward proposals to Management Board and cabinet. Once we have completed that process, I can tell you exactly where we are.

I am pleased that the discussions are carrying on because I think there is a tremendous potential here, not only to meet the needs of the people of Owen Sound and area but also to save considerable amounts of money.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The former minister (Mr. F. S. Miller) and the Premier have guaranteed a new \$50 million hospital for Owen Sound by 1980. Will that still be on the boards if the present minister is still around? What is going to happen here?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I don't believe any such guarantee was given. I don't recall any such guarantee being given.

Mr. Sargent: Why doesn't the minister ask his predecessor?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I will later.

BEVERAGE CONTAINER TAX

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the statement by the Minister of the Environment that he intends to leave the can tax bill on the order paper for discussion in the fall, will the minister also undertake to bring in this fall a program for providing alternative employment and income protection for can and bottle workers who may be displaced by any measures which reduce the use of throw-aways?

Hon. Mr. Kerr: Yes. That will be the type of thing that I will be talking to you about, Marion.

Mr. Speaker: Such familiarity.

ENTERO-VIOFORM PRESCRIPTION

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, in response to the question raised by the member for Port Arthur concerning the drug product Entero-Vioform, I would like to provide the following answer:

This drug had been routinely used for the treatment of "traveller's diarrhea" for many

years—I don't know whether that includes fellow-travellers or not. At that time it was thought the compound had a low order of toxicity; it has now been shown that such use is associated with significant risk. The most important toxic reaction is myelo-optic neuropathy, a syndrome characterized by abdominal symptoms, peripheral neuropathy and muscle weakness occasionally progressing to paraplegia.

Early in 1976, this drug was made a prescription item in Canada, available only with the advice of and on prescription from a physician. However, it should be noted that this drug is still widely available to tourists travelling in many countries, especially the Asiatic countries, where it is sold for either summer, travellers' or unspecified diarrhea; gastroenteritis; colitis, or digestive disorders associated with diarrhea. In some countries, products are sold without any indication that the drug is part of the formulation.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary to the minister's answer, Mr. Speaker: Could he tell us what steps he can take, or have the federal authorities take, to ensure it is not sold off the shelf? I have been able to purchase it off the shelf as recently as two months ago.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I would very much appreciate having the name of the pharmacy or other retail operation where the member purchased it. In May 1976 the College of Pharmacists, in their newsletter, informed the pharmacists around the province that this particular drug at that point required prescription, and that they were therefore to take it off the shelf. The college, through its inspectors, is responsible for following up on these orders and where necessary taking disciplinary action. If the member would provide me with the name of the pharmacy I will be glad to see that it is passed on to the College of Pharmacists and that appropriate action is taken.

WHEELCHAIR RAMP

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Acting Minister of Government Services in relation to the gold-plated wheelchair ramp between the north wing and the main building.

How can the minister justify spending \$212,000 of the taxpayers' money to put in a simple wheelchair ramp between the main building and the north wing—\$212,000 and seven months to build.

Mr. S. Smith: A whole hotel has gone up in that time.

Mr. Eakins: We thought it was a make-work project.

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I can get the details of the tender, but it is more than a wheelchair ramp. There is also a wheelchair elevator, I can tell him that. Also, it now looks as though it will be finished between August 21 and the end of August.

Mr. Nixon: It's to accommodate those carts the bartenders run back and forth.

Mr. Reid: Supplementary: How does the minister justify that amount of money and that kind of time when we can build a whole new hotel or a new parliament building in seven months?

Mr. Eakins: It's a make-work project.

Mr. McEwen: What's a million?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, I can't tell him the details until I have them in front of me, but I can tell him, from previous experience as minister of public works some years ago—

Mr. Eakins: The minister for the Christmas party.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Auld: —that this is probably the most expensive building in town to do anything to. Every time we have made alterations it has been extremely costly because it's a very old building.

Mr. O'Neil: Supplementary: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the minister could tell us whether that is the exact amount; is it on a contract basis or is it on a cost-plus basis?

Hon. Mr. Auld: My recollection is that it is on a contract basis, but I'll be delighted to get the material and pass it along.

CONSERVATION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Mr. Bounsall: I have a new question of the Acting Minister of Government Services. Fully understanding that the designation, by local conservation advisory committees and local councils, of buildings as architecturally and historically important is not binding on buildings owned by the government, would the minister, however, clearly instruct everyone in his ministry to co-operate fully with the Ontario Heritage Foundation and those local architectural conservation committees regarding any government ministry's plans to renovate or in any way alter government buildings so designated in order that the distinctive architectural features are not destroyed by those alterations; particularly inasmuch as so many of the historically important buildings across Ontario are now owned by the government?

Hon. Mr. Auld: Mr. Speaker, since it was my bill that set up the program I am of course

very interested in doing that; and it has been done in fact. However, I should remind the hon. member that the legislation does not require an owner to renovate if he or she chooses not to; what it does do is give the municipality the opportunity, within a specified time, to acquire the building and then carry out the renovations itself.

I think the time period is six months during which an owner cannot tear it down or make major alterations, but there is no binding requirement on an owner to do this without compensation.

Mr. Bounsall: Supplementary: In this regard was the minister specifically assured that the substantial renovations to be made to the old Essex county courthouse and the registry office, both duly designated by the Windsor city council and the Windsor Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee—renovations for the purpose of expansion of the Windsor jail facilities—be thoroughly discussed with that local advisory committee, particularly in as much as they are concerned that some of the historical and architectural features will disappear and in as much as the courthouse apparently is unique architecturally within Ontario and was built by a company operated by a former Prime Minister of Canada, one Alexander Mackenzie?

Mr. Conway: Good Liberal.

Mr. Warner: There's no such thing.

Hon. Mr. Auld: I'd remind the hon. member that the ministry had some discussion and was unable to satisfy the Toronto Historical Society about renovations about 999 Queen Street for the reason that it was impossible to restore the building to its original condition and carry out the kind of programs that are now required in a psychiatric hospital. I'm not making any invidious comparisons between psychiatric hospitals and courthouses, but I would say that it may well be that there are certain renovations that have to be carried out which may interfere with the original architecture, but without which the court can't function properly.

BELLEVUE NURSING HOME

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have an answer to a question raised by the member for Carleton East (Ms. Gigantes) regarding Bellevue Residence.

Bellevue Residence is located at Orleans, Ontario, and is operated as a boarding home. When the member raised this question I directed one of our staff from the inspection branch to visit the facility.

Residents are referred for admission primarily from the Ottawa-Carleton regional wel-

fare department. The Prescott welfare department also admits residents to the Bellevue facility. In addition to the foregoing, admissions are also made through the patient placement co-ordination services of Brockville Psychiatric Hospital and the Royal Ottawa Hospital.

Approximately 30 per cent of the residents are being rehabilitated for alcohol addiction. Health and social needs of the foregoing residents are met through placement follow-up by social workers from the welfare departments and institutions involved. In addition, two physicians call on a regular basis to monitor the health needs of the persons residing in this facility.

Standards for this facility are set by the federal Department of Health and Welfare and an environmental health inspector visits the facility every two months to ensure that environmental standards and proper food standards are maintained. Although there are no specific provincial standards that this facility must meet regarding general care, if a medical problem does occur, the medical officer of health, under The Public Health Act, does have the authority to investigate and take corrective action.

In addition, social workers monitor the placements to ensure satisfactory care and that there is adequate financial arrangements for the individuals on welfare.

The menu in use at present was reviewed by our inspectors and appeared to be adequate. According to the administrator—and this relates to a specific concern of the hon. member—blood pudding was served once. Upon direction from the administrator, it was removed from the menu. The menu offers a variety of food; sausage, blood pudding and macaroni are not a constant diet. A new menu to be introduced was reviewed. Macaroni is served on one day as macaroni and cheese, and on Sunday, as part of the cold plate, as macaroni salad.

The food storage was reviewed. There appeared to be ample food properly stored and, where appropriate, under refrigeration.

Mr. Cunningham: Gong.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The kitchen was clean.

Mr. Speaker, in her question, the member for Carleton East asked about a broken septic tank and I had my staff look into this matter. Although there were some problems experienced some time ago with the septic tank system—

Mr. Sargent: Write her a letter.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: This is a very serious matter raised by one of our fellow members and I hope the member pays attention.

Although there were some problems experienced some time ago with the septic tank system there is not now a problem. However, the National Capital Commission has now agreed to help Mr. Bordo install a sewer system that will connect with the Orleans system this fall. In the interim, Mr. Speaker, I am informed that the NCC has agreed to put an additional two foot layer of sand over the existing septic tank by the end of this week.

Mr. Warner: I don't believe this nonsense.

MACLAREN HOUSE NURSING HOME

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the issue of transfer of residents to MacLaren House Nursing Home has also been investigated. It has been identified that residents whose health status changes have such changes monitored by the physicians who attend the facility.

Mr. Cunningham: Take him out to lunch.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Since May 5, it has been identified that five residents have been evaluated and application has been made for extended health care benefits.

Mr. Sargent: You are not even a good reader!

An hon. member: A slow reader.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Yes, I'm a very slow reader; sorry, Eddie.

These applications were approved and the residents in question have been transferred to MacLaren House Nursing Home. This arrangement is not unusual and is appropriate for the handling of persons whose health status changes and for whom nursing home care is required.

[3:00]

Mr. Speaker: We'll allow one supplementary on this.

Ms. Gigantes: Mr. Speaker, by way of supplementary, I would like to express my incredulity and to ask, can the minister actually be proud of a report like that?

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question of information?

Ms. Gigantes: He's admitted every complaint. Can he be proud of that?

An hon. member: Question, question.

Mr. Lewis: That is a question.

Mr. Warner: A complete whitewash.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Ask a question. You've got to have a question; you've been around long enough.

Ms. Gigantes: That was a question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: You're not a beginner any more.

Mr. Speaker: We'll go to the next question.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, may I answer the question? Or is the member to get away with that kind of nonsense? Absolutely hopeless.

Mr. Lewis: There was a clear interrogative tone in the voice.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: You don't know how to do anything but play games, do you?

Ms. Gigantes: Shame.

Mr. Warner: Absolute whitewash.

Mr. Lewis: There is something wrong with your regional services branch.

EDUCATION REGIONAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Mr. Sweeney: A question of the Minister of Education: Can the minister confirm that the regional offices of his ministry in Waterloo, Kingston and St. Catharines have been ordered closed?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As a part of our ongoing reorganizations in the ministry, we are phasing out the regional operations in Kitchener-Waterloo, Kingston and St. Catharines, yes.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister explain how it is possible that an official of his ministry visited each of those offices between two and three months ago and clearly told the staff they were not going to be closed? Is there some change of policy of such significance that could take place in only two or three months?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I think, Mr. Speaker, if my friend checked what was transmitted to those offices at that time, he probably would find the message was that nothing had been decided at that time.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It has now been decided that the actual offices will be phased out in those three locations. We intend to keep the other regional offices open. Indeed, some of the professional staff in St. Catharines, Kitchener-Waterloo and Kingston will probably remain living in those particular communities and servicing the school districts they service from their home in those areas, that is still being worked out.

We intend that regional offices remain in operation. Those that do will be strengthened and the operation will be available to all the

county school boards in the province from our regional offices, in the north and southern Ontario.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Is it a very short one?

Mr. Sweeney: Is there any significance to the fact that the announcement was made the day after the minister's estimates were completed in this House?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, there's no significance whatsoever.

PARK-AND-RIDE FACILITIES

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, my question is of the Minister of Transportation and Communications: Given the chaotic traffic conditions that exist in many residential streets south of Eglinton, with the result that many taxpayers are petitioning the York Borough council to change two-way streets to one-way streets to alleviate the traffic conditions; and given the fact that the Spadina subway is to open by September or October of this year; and also the commitment that this government has made to building park-and-ride facilities in the Davis Ditch; could the minister bring this House up to date as to the status of the park-and-ride facility or facilities at Lawrence, or south of Lawrence Avenue?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I don't recall any discussions about building a parking garage in that particular location. But as the hon. member knows--

Mr. Cassidy: Another election promise down the drain.

Hon. Mr. Snow: --following a meeting between the borough mayors and city mayor, and the Metro chairman and the Premier (Mr. Davis) and myself, last December I guess it was, the Premier asked me and my ministry to do a study on park-and-ride facilities in the Spadina arterial road corridor south of Lawrence Avenue--or actually in the corridor, period. This study was completed. The recommendations of the study group was that a park-and-ride facility be constructed at the Glencairn Spadina subway station. That decision, and copies of the report, were transmitted to the Metropolitan Toronto chairman, the mayor of Toronto, the mayor of York and the mayor of North York. I believe it was, along with a commitment, a letter from myself to the Metro chairman, that this was our recommendation and that we were prepared to supply the 75 per cent funding for the construction of such facility. To date we have had no reply to that letter, I believe.

Mr. Grande: Supplementary: Since the problem appears to be at the Metro level in

that they have not decided where to build the facility, is the minister prepared to give Metro a deadline as to when this body should come to him with a recommendation, keeping in mind, as I said before, the subway becomes operative in October, 1977? If Metro does not come through with the decision, is the government prepared to build a park-and-ride facility on its own?

Hon. Mr. Snow: First of all, there have been some requests from the Metropolitan Toronto chairman for some discussions at the staff level with regard to the park-and-ride facility. I also anticipate having a meeting with him personally in the near future to discuss the matter.

With regard to the balance of the question; no, I don't believe I am prepared to put a deadline on when Metro should build the facility. I think that's their decision.

Secondly; no, I'm not prepared to build one provincially, because it should be a Metro facility if it is to be there, and I recommend that it should be built.

TRAIN SERVICE

Mr. G. E. Smith: I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware that the Northlander, the newest train that is operated by the Ontario Northland Railway, which travels daily to and from North Bay to Toronto and return, no longer uses the Bala grid and goes down through Beaverton via the east side of Lake Simcoe, but travels the west side through Orillia and Barrie? Is he aware that the train does not stop at Orillia? I would like to know why one of the larger cities between Toronto and North Bay is deprived of this service?

Mr. Sargent: It doesn't stop at Owen Sound either.

Hon. Mr. Snow: When the initial plans were made for the implementation of the Northlander service, the intention was that the CNR line on the east side of Lake Simcoe would continue to be used, as that line had always been used for the passenger service into northeastern Ontario. When Ontario Northland got down to refining the schedules and the operations with officials of the CNR, it was decided that the train would run on both sides of Lake Simcoe.

There are really two trips a day; one travelling to the east of Lake Simcoe and one to the west. The train does stop at Barrie. It does not stop at Orillia at this time because it stops at Washago. I realize that Washago is a very small community compared to Orillia, but there's an oper-

ational requirement that it must stop at Washago for the change of crews.

Mr. Reid: It should at least slow down a little.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The full Northlander service will not be implemented until this fall when the other two trains arrive. Also, there will be some consideration given to speeding up the schedule because the train is capable of travelling at a higher rate of speed, in the opinion of the officials of Ontario Northland. So it may be, come fall, when the schedules are adjusted and when the other two trains go into service, that Orillia can be added as a stop. We'll consider that.

Mr. G. E. Smith: Supplementary: Is the minister aware—and I'm sure he is—that the city of Barrie benefits from GO Transit and due to its geographic location is receiving a greater bus service than the city of Orillia? Will he take these facts into consideration when the schedule is reassessed during the fall months?

Mr. Breaugh: Just say "yes."

Hon. Mr. Snow: Yes, I am aware that a limited number of GO Transit buses travel as far as the city of Barrie. I am also aware that the city of Orillia as well as Barrie has other very excellent bus services; we will consider all that when we are looking at it this fall.

STAFF MOVE COST

Mr. Cunningham: I too have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications: Would the minister please explain why it appears that the moving of the Urban Transportation Development Corporation staff, and contractors' staff, to Kingston will cost somewhere in the area of \$1.8 million, when the entire cost of the project is expected to cost \$14 million? Will the minister further itemize these costs for us?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I realize that question is derived from the answer to the question on the order paper and that the hon. member needs an additional breakdown on that. I am sure the hon. member realizes that the overall intermediate capacity transit system research project is to cost considerably more money than what he has just suggested, but will get that additional information.

Mr. Cunningham: By way of one brief supplementary, is the minister sending it by Brinks?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure that's supplementary.

Mr. Cunningham: Is he sending it by Brinks or taxicab?

TRUCK LICENSING

Mr. Philip: A question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications arising from the report of the select committee on highway transportation of goods, and of concern to the trucking industry as it involves their loss of revenue: Can the minister tell the House when he plans to implement the recommendation of the committee that there be a moratorium on class R licences? And would the minister care to inform us as to the state of reciprocity agreements between Ontario and Georgia?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see I am not being neglected for questions on my birthday.

[Applause]

Mr. MacDonald: That's one way to get applause.

Mr. Cassidy: You are just looking for sympathy.

An hon. member: At last, 39.

Mr. Havrot: You should live so long.

Hon. Mr. Snow: And I didn't bring my white horse today either.

On behalf of King Billy, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. member: He is sitting right there.

Mr. Breithaupt: He will answer on his own.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Now what was the question?

Mr. Speaker, we are working within the ministry on the many recommendations of the select committee on highways transportation of goods. I realize one of the recommendations was that there be a moratorium on the issuance of class R licences for dump trucks.

I have discussed this matter with the chairman of the Highway Transport Board and I have come to the conclusion that until we consider the recommendations totally it would not be reasonable to initiate a total moratorium on licences because, based on need in certain particular areas of the province, it will be necessary from time to time to grant class R licences, in some cases on a temporary basis for a particular construction job. So I don't feel that a moratorium would really be workable across the province.

The chairman of the Highway Transport Board is well aware of the recommendation and is not handing out class R licences on a wholesale basis but monitoring the situation

very carefully and only granting licences where there is a need proven.

The second part of the question related to reciprocity between Ontario and Georgia. I am not at this moment in detailed negotiations with the state of Georgia, although we did receive a letter from their transportation commissioner or some official within the last few days.

My officials have been meeting with the state of Louisiana and have come up with some type of draft agreement for the implementation of reciprocity with that state. That agreement is before different ministries of the government other than my own which are involved at this time and is under consideration by the government.

I feel if we can come up with an appropriate agreement for Louisiana or any state, and get the policy established as to what type of reciprocity agreements we are going to enter into, then entering into agreements with other states will be much easier.

[3:15]

HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that I have to respond to this question in the absence of the hon. member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell). Not for the reason you might think, but because it was she who, as I recall, asked the question. However, I also know that she cares very much that I respond—

Mr. Speaker: You might put it on the record, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —before the House rises, and this may be the last question period for a while.

It related, Mr. Speaker, to the question of the home support service program and certain figures that had been passed to her by our ministry. I think in order to understand the use of the words "committed jobs" that she was questioning, it is necessary to understand that the initial feedback from the municipalities and the Indian bands resulted in most cases, in communication from the social services administrator of the municipality expressing the intent to participate, subject to the municipal council getting final approval by way of resolution.

I would like to point out that in the initial response, which was over a period of six to eight weeks following the announcement, we had—as of the time of the question, which was approximately a week ago—a total of 403 committed jobs. In some of those situations we are still awaiting the receipt of the resolution of the municipal council. There are 12

municipalities in the province that have not yet responded, and there are some 17 which have indicated they do not have any desire to participate. Of those 403 jobs, 126 of them have been implemented, as I understand it.

Mr. S. Smith: Only 126 jobs?

Mr. Lewis: It hardly corresponds to the budget promises.

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are 277 jobs in the second category where we are simply awaiting receipt of the resolution of the council, but the intention has been expressed to proceed.

More specifically, with respect to the question concerning Metro council, which the hon. member raised, I have had communication with Chairman Godfrey of Metro council, and have written to him on two occasions. Unfortunately, his first communication to me was during the election campaign and there was some delay in my response to that letter. But I have, as recently as this week, responded to him for the second time, and I am now awaiting the decision of the Metropolitan council as to whether or not they wish to participate.

Mr. Speaker: The oral question period has expired.

REPORTS

CLARKE INSTITUTE

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The Ontario Mental Health Foundation Act requires that the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry make a report to the Minister of Health, as to the foundation and its affairs during the preceding year. I am tabling in the House today the Annual Report of the Clarke Institute for the year ended December 31, 1976, which was submitted to me on June 30, and subsequently to the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF ENERGY

Mr. Johnson from the standing resources development committee reported the following resolution:

Resolved: That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Energy be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1978:

Ministry administration program ..	\$ 598,000
Energy policy program	2,276,000
Regulatory affairs program	636,000
Energy supply program	5,365,000
Energy conservation program	5,745,000

MOTIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON COMPANY LAW

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that a select committee of the Legislature be appointed to continue the inquiry and review of the law affecting the corporations in this province as reported on by the select committee of this House, appointed on June 22, 1965, and reappointed on July 8, 1966, July 23, 1968, December 17, 1971, and May 25, 1976, and in particular to inquire into and review the law relating to the business of insurance companies in the province including, but not restricted to:

(a) The incorporation, licensing, regulation and supervision of insurers as joint stock companies, mutual corporations, fraternal societies, mutual benefit societies, exchanges, syndicates of underwriters and rating bureaux carrying on all classes of insurance business in this province; mergers, amalgamations and reinsurance of liabilities, reporting to shareholders, policyholders and members, their solvency, liquidity and financial requirements, the purposes, scope and functions of their returns, reports, statistical gathering and the basis for their rates and premiums;

(b) Automobile insurance contracts and, in particular, the provision of accident benefits, fire insurance, life insurance, accident and sickness and marine insurance contracts and generally insurance contracts in this province;

(c) The licensing, regulation and supervision of insurance agents, brokers and adjusters; and

(d) The marketing of insurance in this province;

And that the select committee have authority to sit during recesses and the interval between sessions and have full power and authority to employ counsel and such other personnel as may be deemed advisable and to hold meetings and hearings in such places as the committee may deem advisable and to call for persons, papers and things and to examine witnesses under oath; and the assembly doth command and compel attendance before the said select committee of such persons and the production of such papers and things as the committee may deem necessary for any of its proceedings and deliberations, for which the hon. the Speaker may issue his warrant or warrants.

And that the said committee be composed of 14 members as follows: Messrs. Breithaupt (chairman), Cunningham, Cureatz, Germa, Gregory, Grossman, Laughren, McCaffrey,

Reid, Renwick, Rotenberg, Stong, Van Horne and Yakabuski.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE OMBUDSMAN

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that a select committee of this House be appointed to continue to review from time to time the reports of the Ombudsman as they become available and as the committee deems necessary, pursuant to section 16(1) of The Ombudsman Act, 1975, to formulate from time to time general rules for the guidance of the Ombudsman in the exercise of his functions under The Ombudsman Act, to report thereon to the Legislature and to make such recommendations as the committee deems appropriate;

And that the select committee have authority to sit during recesses and the interval between sessions and have power to employ such staff as it deems necessary and to call for persons, papers and things and to examine witnesses under oath; and the assembly doth command and compel the attendance before the said select committee of such persons and the production of such papers and things as the committee may deem necessary for any of its proceedings and deliberations for which the hon. the Speaker may issue his warrant or warrants;

And that the said committee consist of 10 members as follows: Messrs. Davison (chairman), Villeneuve, Turner, G. Taylor, Elgie, Campbell, Eakins, G. I. Miller, Renwick and McClellan.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that the standing resources development committee be authorized to sit during the summer recess of the House for the purposes of considering Bill 22, An Act to amend The Labour Relations Act; and that the said committee be authorized to hold hearings in such locations of Ontario as the committee deems appropriate.

Motion agreed to.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that Mr. Mancini be substituted for Mr. Riddell; Mr. Hennessy be substituted for Mr. Yakabuski, and Messrs. Mackenzie and Bounsall be substituted for Messrs. Laughren and Martel on the standing resources development committee.

Motion agreed to.

SUMMER ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that when the House adjourns today it stands adjourned until a date to be named by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor by her proclamation.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of bills.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch: Before the orders of the day, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions 2 and 3 standing on the notice paper, and in addition, question 13 standing on the notice paper. (See appendix page 748.)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MINISTRY OF
NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT

House in committee on Bill 21, An Act to establish the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments to any section in Bill 21?

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, I gave a copy of the amendments we proposed to move to the Chairman last week and a copy to the Liberal caucus. Has the minister received his copy now?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, I have.

Mr. Martel: I would like to move a preamble to the bill, Mr. Chairman, and I hope the minister will accept it.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel moves that:

"Whereas the government of the province of Ontario desires to encourage the present and future economic and social development of northern Ontario and its closer ties with the more developed areas of the province;

"And whereas it is deemed expedient to provide for the creation of a Ministry of Northern Affairs, the minister of which is to co-ordinate the activities of all ministries of the province of Ontario and any agency of the Crown and to engage in direct activities where appropriate to further the economic and social development of northern Ontario;

"And whereas it is deemed desirable to assist local communities in northern Ontario in their effort in planning, organizing, developing, carrying out, administering and financing programs to provide local services for the amenity of the inhabitants thereof;

"Therefore Her Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, enacts as follows:"

Mr. Martel: If I just might indicate why we have moved a preamble, Mr. Chairman,

I think it is our effort to expand the purpose of the bill. In everything I said during the second reading debate I indicated that I didn't think a co-ordinating role was sufficient for the province to meet the needs of northern Ontario; that, in fact, it had to cover two areas, the economic area as well as the amenities of life which the unorganized townships don't enjoy.

It is my hope that the minister will accept this preamble because it then takes the ministry beyond simply being a co-ordinating ministry. In fact, it then sets the stage for the ministry, if he accepts other amendments which we will move, to play a very important role in the economic development of the north and provides an avenue whereby the unorganized townships, if he again accepts later amendments, would have a body through which funding could be provided direct. I know the minister says this would be done if there was an entity there. We hope to provide that entity in later amendments so that he doesn't have to go looking for it or to appoint committees. In fact, he would have a local authority that would be responsible for the funds which the minister would have at his disposal to provide those services in the north.

[3:30]

What I am trying to do by the preamble is set the stage to expand beyond simply a co-ordinating role. I think the minister would agree, and certainly he has indicated that he thinks his role is more than co-ordinating. We are simply trying to build into the bill, by the preamble, that it is more than a co-ordinating role, and that it has two other major functions. One is economic and the other to resolve the problems of the unorganized communities. These latter were supposed to be resolved in Bill 102 but the Minister of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs couldn't come to grips with them because of the difficulty in insisting that all municipalities which were unorganized would have to come under that bill; this provides an avenue.

All I'm trying to do in the beginning is set the stage. If the minister, hopefully, will accept this one, we've set the stage for providing the other amendments which will make a ministry that can deal with the problems of northern Ontario. Failure to do that, I suspect, will not give the minister the power he's looking for.

I'm not sure what his cabinet colleagues have said, but I hope this minister is the voice of northern Ontario, as he's gone across northern Ontario saying in the last number of months. I hope he would accept this so that

he is in a position and has enshrined in legislation the things that he intends to do. As the bill stands, certainly the things he talked about I can't find in the bill. I really can't, and I have read it over many, many times.

I'm hoping he will accept this preamble, which provides him with the tools to do the job which he has said, repeatedly in northern Ontario, that he wants to do.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I certainly want to recognize the fact that the hon. member did provide me with a copy of his amendments last week. I think he sent a copy to my critic in the Liberal Party as well. I certainly want to recognize the time and effort he put into these amendments and certainly his contribution during the second reading.

I think he listed many of the underlying issues which must be dealt with in the north, there's just no question about it. I think I have to agree with him on many points, there's no argument about that.

He mentioned the provision of services to unorganized communities. He mentioned we couldn't come to grips with this situation in Bill 102. I would have to remind the hon. member that in that particular case, as it related to that particular bill, we did conduct many public meetings, across northern Ontario with the unorganized communities. In fact, one person—I believe Dick Illingworth—was a co-ordinator for that particular exercise across northern Ontario.

From those meetings came the UCANO group, the Unorganized Communities Association of Northern Ontario—groups in northern Ontario known as UCANO East and UCANO West. It was obvious in those public meetings we had in northern Ontario that that inflexibility that was incorporated in Bill 102 was not acceptable, just totally not acceptable.

I live in an unorganized community, Mr. Chairman, the unorganized community of Hudson, and I know well of what I speak. Many people live in that particular community because the cost of living is not as high as in the organized areas. They don't have the high taxation rate; they don't really want the expensive services that organized communities have. Quite frankly, they don't like to be dictated to as to the structure of the municipal organization they will have.

The unorganized communities can, by a nucleus of the taxpayers, get together and establish a local roads board or be incorporated under the statute labour board. They may go a step further and become an improvement district, and from that would flow

elected representatives. So the structure is there for that type of thing.

The member also touched on methods of funding these particular services, improved health care, assistance and incentives for the development of job-creating enterprises and in general improving the economic climate for investment and job-creation in the north. Certainly these are issues I believe all members who spoke during the second reading of this bill share equally as being ones which merit our full attention and energy in the months and years ahead.

I would say to the hon. member that as we move ahead in the months and years ahead I will be calling on both sides of the House for their suggestions and their ideas as to how we can achieve these goals that we all want to obtain. I say that with a great deal of sincerity because, as I said during the debate on second reading, northern sincerity came through loud and clear, and the suggestions on many occasions were excellent ones that we're going to carefully assess.

So, while I support my friend the member for Sudbury East and understand the underlying objectives which are implied in his particular motion, I find I really can't accept the amendment which he's brought forward which deals with the method of implementing these objectives. I'll deal with each one individually if you like—there were something like nine or 10 specific amendments—but I just find that I have no alternative than to find unacceptable the substance of his motion, as it relates to the bill itself.

I think if he goes over the bill very carefully he will see that in section 8 we deal with the co-ordinating aspects of the bill. Also section 10, subsections 1 and 2, certainly makes available—I'll put it on the record: "Upon the recommendation of the minister the Lieutenant Governor in Council may establish programs for the benefit of the residents of northern Ontario." That's broad and encompassing; it takes in the general thrust of the member's amendments.

And subsection 2 says: "A program may determine conditions for grants and assistance and conditions under which these services are provided by the ministry and expenses allowed." Now already we have used that section of the bill, as an example in the Cobalt situation where we moved in very quickly. This will strengthen our hand of course, if the hon. members approve it, to move very quickly and to respond to the very specific, and as the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) said the unique, requirements of northern Ontario.

But if the hon. member wishes to go through each amendment individually I'll be glad to have him do that.

Mr. Martel: I just might conclude—just on the preamble. One thing bothers me.

I think what we're trying to do is avoid inflexibility. That's why we haven't suggested that there had to be a community council, or we will not in our amendments later on, in these areas. In fact that would allow the various unorganized townships to make that determination by holding such an election, that they wouldn't have to do that, as was set out under Bill 102. We're leaving it open so they have the option.

I realize many people move to unorganized townships because of the fact the tax bill is somewhat less. Therefore we haven't insisted that it be mandatory in our definitions. We're saying that ultimately what we want to say is that the option is there; should they choose to have an elected group, then that's in fact the group that the minister relates with for that particular area.

As it is now he doesn't have anyone, really. He might have a local roads board, but they can only get tax dollars for road purposes. For recreational purposes it's extremely difficult to find anyone who is responsible, in an elected sense as the local roads boards are, to receive the funds.

An hon. member: The board of education.

Mr. Martel: My colleague says "the board of education," but many of the unorganized townships are not covered by a board of education.

Interjection.

Mr. Martel: Oh, yes. You take the entire railroad line beyond Capreol north—Gogama, Foleyet, they don't come under district school boards. Most of it comes directly under the regional office in the city of Sudbury.

Unless you can get some sort of an agreement whereby a school board is willing to put in a tennis court, which isn't very expensive, or a rink, then there's no way for any group in that municipality receiving the funding.

What I'm simply trying to provide is a vehicle which, if possible, in every unorganized township by an election similar to that for a local roads board could be the body which could receive funding, whether it be for a street light, whether it be for recreational purposes or whether it be for any of the services which we presently don't have. It would save the ministry from having to identify a group. He said the other night, I believe, he'd have to identify a group in a

certain community which would be responsible. I'm saying this would be the responsible group, providing it wanted to accept that.

It would make it very easy then for the minister to know who he is dealing with constantly, and that group would become responsible for funding in a variety of fields, from the various ministries, such as Culture and Recreation. It would all come through the minister and he'd be dealing directly with them.

As it is now, he doesn't know who he's dealing with. These municipalities will come to the minister; they'll go to the Minister of Culture and Recreation and they'll go to the Solicitor General for funding maybe for something else. I'm saying what we need is this very loose arrangement, but in fact it would be the same group which would co-ordinate any development that would go on in the unorganized townships.

What I'm afraid will happen is you're going to have a variety of groups in the same community established for different reasons. You would be better off going this route, because you would have the one group which would then be responsible for what it is that goes on in any particular community. Otherwise, it would be so flexible that I think that you'll not see the type of co-ordination that's necessary for them to provide recreational facilities or street lights or whatever it might be.

All we're trying is to set the stage for this permanently, and hopefully the ministry then would act as a clearing house for funding for the unorganized townships. The minister would know and would come to know the groups he's dealing with. He would almost be a duplicate of TEIGA, but for unorganized townships whereas TEIGA or the Ministry of Housing is responsible for the organized townships.

I would urge the minister to do that, even if he wants to move it himself. I'm willing to sit down and let him move it himself should he choose to do so. But I just think it's so imperative that we have a duly constituted body of some sort in the unorganized townships which has flexibility as to whether it wants to proceed in that fashion or not, but just to have some body that can deal with the minister and with which the minister can deal directly.

Mr. Reid: We in the Liberal Party have looked closely at the bill with a view to perhaps amending it as well. We came to the conclusion this bill is a bill only to create the ministry, to set up the administrative

functions and to explain within a very broad framework what the functions of the ministry are to be.

I sympathize and I agree with my colleague the member for Sudbury East. As a matter of fact, he will recall I spoke exactly on this matter of unorganized territories and their problems in having a responsible body within those areas to deal with government and to receive grants and subsidies. We certainly have no problem accepting the preamble to the bill. I would say, however, that I'm not sure that we can. While we agree with the spirit of the amendments, I believe, quite frankly, they're out of order in most cases.

I'm disappointed, in fact, that the minister didn't give us a more comprehensive view or list of exactly what he believes the functions of his ministry are. He said in reply to our speeches on second reading that these things would be moving ahead. I hope that when we come back in the fall, the minister will have a detailed list of the programs and functions he's going to have under his ministry. Particular, I would say to him, one of the most urgent matters is that of dealing with unorganized communities. We have no problem with the preamble to the bill. I think it would be desirable to have that in the bill. As I say, although we agree with the spirit of the amendments, I don't believe they're in order and we should not restrict the bill going forward at this time, because all it is is a bill to create the ministry and provide the broad outlines of its function.

3:45]

Hon. Mr. Bernier: If I could respond briefly to those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I want to go back a few days in my own experience in my old home town of Hudson.

The hon. member spoke about a structure for an unorganized community, and I would like to observe that I led a group in my home town of Hudson, which is unorganized, to become organized. In fact, I instituted a number of public meetings with the then Department of Municipal Affairs, which gave us a tremendous amount of assistance with regard to moving into an improvement district. It wasn't very difficult but, I have to tell you, as we rolled out all the responsibilities that would be thrust on that small municipality, which had no really strong economic tax base—no economic base at all; no industrial tax base—the local people thought they could see their taxes going up and it wasn't very long before they put thumbs down on that particular idea.

I think we tried on two or three different occasions and we were turned down because

it was felt, as the hon. member said, that we should have some nucleus, some body to deal with, or some head of the community that government could deal with. But the local population, the taxpayers, just said: "No way. We will continue." Consequently, what we're seeing there now is the Chamber of Commerce acting in the capacity of a municipal organization, believe it or not, with the president of the Chamber of Commerce being, in essence, the mayor; he makes all the contacts.

It has worked out very well. The Ministry of Natural Resources looks after the local garbage dump. They have established an excellent rapport with Ontario Hydro, whereby a small charge is levied on all the Hydro users; I think it's 50 cents or \$1 a month, which goes right on their bill and provides for all the street lights in the town. The local roads board is very active and they have a good assessment in the community. Consequently, all the streets in the town of Hudson are surfaced through the efforts of that particular board. Granted, we don't have sidewalks and other things of that nature, but we have an excellent school related to the district school board in Dryden. Basically, the municipal structure is there, but not in a formal, structured way.

Just to refer to the hon. member's desire to have some form of a structure in an unorganized area for a greater taxation power—I think that's what he was looking for—I would point out that the statute labour boards are in practically every unorganized community. I don't know whether the hon. member recalls, but the Treasurer (Mr. McKeough) has indicated that that bill would be brought before the House and there would be some changes made to the local roads boards to broaden those taxation powers; it wouldn't be related specifically to roads and road maintenance, because that's what the local roads boards are responsible for now. In other words, if a group wanted to establish and to raise funds for, say, garbage collection, to look after the local garbage dump, to put in their share of fire protection, or even to put up street lights, they could do it under The Statute Labour Act changes which we are contemplating now. This is something we are reviewing very carefully and it would do the things that the hon. member is referring to.

Recreational grants, of course, are available through the local school boards. Win-tario grants are available to these small communities, and of course the isolated communities assistance fund is something that we're all going to have to watch very care-

fully and all contribute to so as to broaden the way we can get direct funds to the unorganized areas.

Mr. Martel: That is why you need someone to deal with it. That is why we're giving you the power.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We will have somebody. We're doing it now with fire protection.

Mr. Martel: Ad hoc.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is ad hoc, but that's the way the unorganized areas are run at the present time. I think we're feeling our way. We're moving ahead very effectively and I think the fire protection efforts we've undertaken to date under ICAF, with the help of UCANO, have been very productive.

I would say to the hon. member for Rainy River that, with respect to the specific programs on which he was questioning me, during the course of the examination of my ministry's estimates would be the ideal time to go over the various types of expenditure programs. Certainly, I would encourage his contribution at that particular time but, as he correctly points out, this particular bill deals with the overall framework and structure of establishing a Ministry of Northern Affairs that will bring about the co-ordination of certain efforts in northern Ontario and also, of course, establishing programs for which we will be given the responsibility.

So, in reviewing the hon. member's amendments, I would say that while I do appreciate his excellent contribution and the time and effort he gave to it, I think our goals will be achieved. He may be going in a different direction, but if he will approve this bill today we will attain those goals under this particular bill. It may not be quite the structured and formal arrangement he would like to see enshrined on a piece of legislation, but I think it's fair to say that we are committed to the social needs, the transportation problems and job creation in northern Ontario. There is no getting away from it, this government is committed to that; we will do that, and certainly this ministry will move in that direction; this bill will give us the strength to go there.

Mr. Foulds: I wonder if we could stick with the amendments as they come up. At the present time we are simply dealing with preamble, as I understand it.

I think the minister is under some misapprehension or misconception. The desire to set up democratically-elected community councils on our part is to provide those unorganized communities with that option to elect that community council, and while the minister can point with some considerable

pride to what has happened in Hudson, for example, it is our very strong feeling that the minister should be dealing with a committee that is democratically-elected, say at a town hall meeting and representative of the whole community. Now I am sure the Chamber of Commerce does represent the whole community in Hudson. In many cases in northern areas the Chamber of Commerce has a broader range of make-up than it does in the more formal structures.

We are not attempting to force through the amendments. If you read them carefully there is no way in which the amendments force upon any unorganized community the necessity for devising the structure. I think it would simply make easier the job of co-ordination and the job of dispersement of help, whether that help be financial or otherwise, because you don't have two or three different boards to deal with and you will be covered in each case.

There are communities where there is no effective school board. There are communities where the roads board, let's face it, is semi-dormant in some cases. I know of cases in which people in unorganized communities feel they don't have a direct input; say where the board of education exists, because they have one trustee who covers the whole area and a trustee on a major board may not come from their particular part of the rural community. That happens in the territory surrounding Thunder Bay, for example. So I think that this is an attempt, in fact, to simplify the procedure, even though in terms the structure of the bill it probably makes it a little more formal.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I just want to comment a little on the statements made by the minister. First, I am a little concerned that he seems to be indicating through his comments on his experience in his home town of Hudson that he feels it is going to be very difficult to get any kind of even less-than-formal structure in an unorganized community. I'd like to point out that not all people who live in an unorganized community are completely opposed to any kind of formal structure. As a matter of fact, the unorganized community of Dubreuilville, with which the minister is familiar, is organizing itself at this particular time and will become an improvement district as of October 1.

I will agree that in general most residents of unorganized communities are not in favour of a formal, municipal structure. In some cases, there is a situation where you have a myriad of boards dealing with particular,

small, confined functions, but you don't have any overall group, like the Chamber of Commerce in the town of Hudson, that can speak for the community.

One of the major problems in the area north of Sault Ste. Marie, an area that is loosely called Sault North, is that it is one of the largest—as far as population goes—unorganized areas in the province, stretching about 50 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie from the city limits, with a number of communities in it. There you have the situation where you have a large number of different roads boards. Some of them are statute labour boards, some of them are local roads boards. Then they have a number of different fire committees, some of which have gotten assistance under the Isolated Communities Assistance Fund, which others have been refused.

You have a number of recreation committees that work for their own particular little area and have no relationship to what is happening in the rest of the area; and you have the Board of Education of Sault Ste. Marie, upon which these people are represented, as my colleague from Port Arthur said, by one trustee who happens to be from Batchawana and does a good job. But Batchawana is 40 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie and has very different interests and problems compared to, say the community of Heyden, which is adjacent to the city.

It is very difficult for those people to deal with government in any co-ordinated fashion, because you have so many different views and they aren't represented in any overall body. I think it is very important for us, as is suggested in our amendments and in the preamble, to give people the option to organize a community council that would have representation from all of these different areas in a place like Sault North and could then speak for the overall development of that area.

If the residents choose not to take that route, that is their option, but all we are trying to do is give them that opportunity. I would hope the minister would see the value in that and accept the spirit, if not the exact wording, of the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I can agree with the hon. members' desire to go in this direction, but I have to point out that if those communities wanted to become organized—and of course the improvement district is the lowest form of municipal structure that we have in the province of Ontario today—and if a group within a community wanted to go that particular route, then it is free to

do so and they can. They could then take that step, after they had some experience. That's the whole idea behind an improvement district, to give the communities some experience in running a municipality.

I have a situation in my own area—Ear Falls is a typical example. As that community grew, their first step was to become an improvement district. Granted, their first group, a five-member group, was appointed. The way we handled it up there was to call a public meeting and the town made the recommendations as to who should be on that particular board. The Treasurer of the day, who was responsible, accepted those people.

They stayed as an improvement district for three years. They got a tremendous amount of help from the Department of Municipal Affairs as to how to approach government and how to set up their municipality in a very formal way. Then they took that next step and now they are a township, the township of Ear Falls, which has duly elected representatives and a reeve.

So the steps are in place, they are available today. I think to have that in here would be a duplication, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Martel: We are obviously not getting through to the minister. We are not suggesting for a moment that it become structured at all, Mr. Minister. We are not suggesting for a moment that, down the road somewhere, it becomes an improvement district or any type of municipal structure whatsoever.

[4:00]

If you were to look at the amendment—after the preamble—on community councils, we are saying, "community council means a democratically-elected council of residents in any community in unorganized territory in northern Ontario." It is merely a body which would act on behalf of the unorganized township and deal directly with the Minister of Northern Affairs in order that on the grants that are available from government you'd have an avenue to funnel those grants through.

We're not suggesting for a moment they are looking down the road to becoming an organized township or municipality. Many of them are too small, as the minister and I both know. Some of these unorganized townships in fact only have 50 people and they couldn't support any type of local council. They couldn't support even the secretary for a municipal council.

What we're saying is that it merely is a board, elected in a town hall meeting, that would become known as a community council, so that that community has a voice to deal

with the minister and the minister has an avenue whereby he provides the grants back to the municipality. It could include the local roads board or members of the local roads board. It could be a group looking for funding for recreation purposes, as we've said already, or a street light. We're just saying that it's a group of people elected in an unorganized township, which will remain unorganized, but who will be the vehicle with which the minister deals in those unorganized townships.

We're not suggesting any more formal structure than that. We just want them to get themselves organized into a group who are then responsible for bringing funds in for a variety of purposes. It might be a road, it might be street lighting, it might be recreation; it might be a number of things, Mr. Minister. All we're trying to do is provide you with someone whom you have a rapport with and who would represent the community to some extent; elected, but not moving to formal structure at all, that's why we've left it optional.

In another amendment we say the minister shall set up the mechanism whereby that can be done; but we're not suggesting it has to be done, we want that flexibility there, as the minister himself has said. We just want a permanent group which can do some of the co-ordinating to provide some of the things that are most necessary to some of those small communities, and for which we have difficulty getting money to them now.

I'd like to get that message across to the minister. We're not talking about taking it to community structure as we understand it in the traditional sense. We'll leave it unorganized. It is just a vehicle with whom the minister can deal on a regular basis, that's all we're asking for.

Mr. Wildman: An intermediate step.

Mr. Chairman: It has been moved by Mr. Martel that the preamble be included in Bill 21.

Those in favour will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

Shall this be stacked?

Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other comments or amendments to any other section?

Mr. Martel: I would ask the Chair's indulgence here. I am not sure what you want to do. I'd like to move a series of definitions, and I'd prefer not to deal with them one at a time, if the Chairman approves. I'd like to move them all and then maybe just touch on them briefly, so that we don't spend a great

deal of time as we would if we went through them one by one. I'd ask the Chairman's indulgence to accept all the definitions and then be allowed to discuss them briefly.

Mr. Chairman: I appreciate that you gave notice to the Chair; it certainly would be in order for you to move it combined and discuss it, yes.

Mr. Martel: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to establish the following definitions:

"In this Act, (a) 'Community council' means a democratically-elected council of residents in any community and unorganized territory in northern Ontario; (b)" —and I put the 'b' part in, the municipal council, to distinguish between the two—" 'municipal council' means a municipal council as defined in The Municipal Act"—to give the difference The Municipal Act—to give the difference in what we are attempting to do—" (c) 'Fund' means the Northern Ontario Tomorrow Fund established by this Act."

I have enlarged on this, I must admit. When I first made these amendments, Parry Sound was still split in half and so I had to make a revision in the definitions. "(d) 'Northern Ontario' means that territory in the province of Ontario lying north of the boundary between Muskoka and Parry Sound districts, and including the west and northern boundaries of Algonquin Park." I believe that is the new definition. "(e) 'Southern Ontario' means that territory in the province of Ontario lying south of the boundary between Muskoka and Parry Sound districts and including the west and north boundaries of Algonquin Park."

Then I would like to define local services. "(e) 'Local services' means services of a type that may be provided in a municipality at the expense, either wholly or partly, of a municipality and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes water supply and water distribution systems, sewage systems and sewage disposal plants, garbage and waste disposal facilities, local roads and sidewalks, local drains and drainage systems, fire and police protection, street lighting, planning, recreational facilities including parks, transportation facilities including ferries, wharfs, docks and facilities for landing of aircraft, libraries and weed control."

The last definition is "(f) 'Non-renewable resources' means those resources whose extraction or harvesting reduces the absolute supply of those resources, either because of their inherent nature or because measures to ensure renewability of the resources have been inadequate."

Hon. Mr. Bernier: If I may comment, and I may be repetitious, but our feeling toward the preamble would certainly be reiterated here. It doesn't form part of the Act and it is not acceptable as part of the bill that I have before the committee. I pointed out to the hon. member that while I might agree with his thrust, I don't think this is the place that this type of definition or amendment should be incorporated.

I would like to point out to him that in the local services to unorganized communities, water supply and water distribution systems now can be assisted through the ICAF fund; sewage systems and sewage disposal plants can be assisted through the ICAF fund; that is our long-term goal. For garbage and waste disposal facilities, again if there is a nucleus of people within that community they can apply for funds under that particular fund.

As for local roads, the statute labour board and the local roads boards can look after that. As for local drains and drainage systems, again ICAF hopefully will come in here. It will also assist with the fire protection; and police protection is now provided provincially by the Ontario Provincial Police.

With regard to street lighting, if there is a community interest and desire, then ICAF will be glad to entertain an application for that particular type of service for those unorganized areas. Planning is something that the TEIGA people would be directly involved in.

Recreational facilities, including parks, are with the school board. I am informed that all our areas in northern Ontario that have a school have to have some form of a school district, so they are in place already.

Transportation facilities, including ferries, wharfs and docks are a federal responsibility. The responsibility for the development of airstrips in Northern Ontario is something that we will have within this ministry. That particular program will be moved from T and C over to our area of responsibility. Already we have embarked on some very ambitious programs for this fiscal year for the development of new airstrips in remote areas of northern Ontario.

I am not just certain where libraries and weed control would fall, but as I point out, those services the hon. member mentions are not only being looked after but can be covered. It may well be the hon. member's comments could be reviewed in the course of another bill. I think it's worthy of consideration. It may well be that we bring back Bill 102 in a new form and certainly we will review his comments very carefully. It may be well worth considering.

Mr. Martel: Might I just point out to the minister, if one looks at the variety of services that are there. I think the minister can understand my concern. As it is you've got no one who speaks for the municipality. You might get an ad hoc group who will look for a few recreational facilities; you then get an ad hoc group who might look to fire protection; you get another ad hoc group in the same community who deal with local roads boards; you get another group concerned with garbage disposal. In fact, what you have developing is a proliferation of groups in the same unorganized community.

What we are simply trying to establish is one group which makes the ministry's job, we think, a whole lot easier. The minister then knows who represents the unorganized community. It gives the residents an opportunity to discuss it with them, maybe at a meeting. Local roads boards call a meeting three or four times a year for example to strike a budget and so on and get it approved.

We are trying to provide you with one tool in every unorganized territory that you can deal with, rather than your ministry dealing, maybe from the township of Awrey, with five different groups from the same unorganized community. We are simply trying to provide a simple mechanism so you can deal with them, on an ongoing basis to provide the variety of services that are necessary.

You and I both know that it is going to happen. You are just becoming intransigent, I am sorry to say, but you and I both know that there is going to be such a proliferation of groups that it is going to be difficult for your ministry, with 120 staff, to deal with five or six groups from each community.

What we are saying is surely it makes a lot more sense to have a very flexible structure available to unorganized communities which will allow the people in your ministry to have an ongoing dialogue with a group familiar with what has gone on before.

Can you imagine what can happen if you had five different groups from the same township dealing partially with similar problems? As my colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) says, if you are spread out, for example in Awrey township where in that one township in my riding there are five local roads boards, all of whose interests are different, it makes it difficult. We've been working on it, I think for seven years now. I think we've finally got them convinced they need one local roads board because each has a different priority. Surely this is the mechanism, whereby we have the ongoing group representing a community, that you need.

For the life of me I can't understand why we are going a different route which is going to create such a wide range of differences. Surely we should be trying to co-ordinate it to simplify the ministry job.

What we need for the unorganized is one thing—that the people can receive the money; that's really all that is lacking—to receive the grants that are available. Nothing else is lacking. There is ability in those unorganized townships, it's just that we don't know who to give the money to.

We have no statutory rights, I guess, to give people who are not elected money; and that is simply what we are trying to provide, a mechanism whereby the government can get money into unorganized townships. Surely that is what we are trying to establish here this afternoon, nothing else.

My colleagues from the north across the way understand that. I am sure the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) has been confronted with that problem, as I have time after time, where they say there is nobody who has the responsibility or who can accept the money on behalf of an unorganized township. He's heard it dozens of times, as I have. What we are trying to do is provide that avenue.

I don't care if I move it, but surely the ministry then has an obligation to simplify the procedure whereby funds which are in this ministry get back to the unorganized townships.

[4:15]

He might say, "Well, you can get fire protection if you talk to so and so", but it becomes very difficult. Surely it's better, Mr. Minister, if you deal with one group for each township—surely it makes sense—rather than 10 different groups or five or three even. That's all we're trying to provide for the minister in this bill. When he looks at all the services that are available, he knows and I know that groups are going to centre in on each of those and you are going to eventually have representation from northern Ontario for each one of those services.

Mr. Chairman: If I might make a suggestion, since the member for Sudbury East has kindly given us notice of the amendments and because the definitions are contingent upon the other amendments, I wonder if it would be in agreement with the other members of the committee if the member for Sudbury East were to put all the amendments at one time and probably consider those in one package? Would that be agreeable to the members of the committee?

Mr. Reid: That would be agreeable, Mr. Chairman, except for one matter. That is it

seems to me that some of the amendments are out of order. Since you've had a chance to look at them I wonder if you are prepared to make a ruling on which are in order and which aren't, or if they are all in order?

Mr. Chairman: I would say to the member for Rainy River that I have seen the amendments, but they haven't been placed before the committee.

Mr. Reid: Okay, go ahead. Put them.

Mr. Chairman: If it is agreeable to the committee would the member for Sudbury East like to go ahead and place the other amendment?

Mr. Martel: Okay. I'll try and put the numbers where I'd like to see them moved into the bill and then you can rule them out of order if you so insist—and my friend from Rainy River so insists. I'm glad he's such a help to the government.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Don't worry about it, I will be objective about it.

Mr. Martel: Will you object to it? Somebody will have to tell you they are out of order though.

I'd like to introduce a new section 3—and that would be those amendments that appear on the third page.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel moves:

"3. The minister shall,

"(1) provide for the establishment of democratically-elected community councils to plan and administer the provision of local services in unorganized communities;

"(2) in conjunction with community councils provide local services at a cost to residents of unorganized communities in northern Ontario comparable to the cost to residents of southern Ontario;

"(3) at the request of municipal council provide the additional funds necessary to ensure the provision of local services to residents of municipalities in northern Ontario at a cost comparable to residents in municipalities in southern Ontario;

"(4) ensure the provision of extended health care in northern Ontario, comparable to that available in southern Ontario; and

"(5) extend communication services including radio and television to all areas of northern Ontario."

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence I'll move the other three and then we can debate the acceptability of them or not.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Martel further moves that section 10 be amended by adding the following subsections:

"(3) The Treasurer may, upon requisition of the minister, advance out of the consoli-

dated fund such sums of money as are required to lend money to any agency of the Crown, co-operative association, or other body of a co-operative nature, person, firm, corporation or local community authority carrying on or proposing to carry on a manufacturing, processing, industrial, financial or commercial business, or undertaking of any nature, or a business or undertaking connected with or incidental to, a manufacturing, processing, industrial, financial or commercial business or undertaking in northern Ontario. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing the minister shall give priority to those undertakings which build on the natural resource base of northern Ontario.

"(4) The minister shall establish a Crown corporation to undertake mineral exploration activities in northern Ontario.

"(5) The ministry shall establish a fund, the Northern Ontario Tomorrow Fund, to consist of moneys derived from natural resources taxation or an assessment on the value of all non-renewable resources extracted in northern Ontario which will be used to guarantee future economic activities."

Mr. Martel: I'd like to make a few comments on these various amendments, give the reasons we moved them, and then you might want to rule.

Section 3 we've moved very deliberately, Mr. Chairman. It coincides with the definition of providing a community council for the unorganized townships. Subsection 1 doesn't, again, make the minister move to provide them but sets in place the mechanism whereby it could be done. It doesn't make it mandatory that you have one in an unorganized township. All it does is make it mandatory that the ministry itself has in place the mechanism whereby this could be done in an unorganized township. So that's very straightforward.

The next subsections, 2 and 3, deal with funding. The minister and I are both aware that some of the problems confronting northern Ontario—the geography of the area, the distance from markets and so on—drive the costs much higher to residents in northern Ontario for the construction, let's say of a home or a sewage plant or a garbage disposal—anything. It's more costly in the north.

All we're trying to say is that surely the ministry, in its wisdom and its efforts, has to get the type of grants which would make it that the residents in those communities would in fact be paying no more for the services they are getting in the north than people in southern Ontario would pay. We're saying there should be a type of grant structure which, in fact, would make up the difference; that we shouldn't have preferred status but

nevertheless we shouldn't be discriminated against, because those resources that come out of the north make southern Ontario viable. In order to have southern Ontario viable it's necessary in these communities that we have some method whereby we get the funding back so that in the unorganized townships the provision of services are no greater to the local residents than they would be if you were making those services available in southern Ontario.

Concerning subsections 4 and 5, we simply believe that the delivery of health care—and I realize this might seem to be a curve thrown in there, but those of us from the north are aware that it takes a lot longer to get these types of services. Frequently they're not available in the north.

Mr. Reid: They come down here.

Mr. Martel: Yes, they come to Toronto. What we're saying there is that surely its provision is incumbent on the ministry. It might be a community clinic that's necessary to guarantee delivery of service.

Finally, the communications network: I heard the minister respond how they got some in a community he was in during the election. That's all well and good, but there are still many communities where these types of communication services aren't as readily available as they are here in southern Ontario. We're saying that should be a responsibility of this ministry to squeeze out of the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Welch) the money for ETV if need be. It might not just be television, but it might be radio in some communities, it might be telephone, it might be a variety of things. We're simply putting those in to guarantee them.

With respect to the other three amendments we have moved, Mr. Chairman, what we're attempting to do in section 10 (3)—and I'll just repeat it: "Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the ministry shall give priority to those undertakings which build on the natural resource base of northern Ontario." Those are grants to businessmen or funding to the community, a co-op—anything. But we're ensuring that priority be given to developing industries based on the natural resources.

NODC doesn't do that. It says it does, but I want to tell you that most people I've talked to, businessmen I've spoken to with respect to NODC just pull their hair out. Besides tourism, in the field of manufacturing related to the natural resources, it just doesn't happen or it's very limited. I'm saying we should be encouraging that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: For primary industry, there is no program.

Mr. Martel: That's right. I think we should open it up much more. We should get at it much sooner. That's why I specifically moved that to make it so, that more people might be interested. That's why we threw in co-ops, giving priority if it deals with manufacturing in the natural resource field because that's what we're interested in. We're interested in creating new wealth.

I've never been very enthusiastic in the north when people talk to me about Sudbury becoming a distribution point for goods to Timmins, for example. That's not creating new wealth, it really isn't. I'm more concerned with new wealth because that's what is going to provide the jobs for young people and for women. It's got to be in that field. We simply don't have a mechanism that I know of in Ontario yet that deals at that level.

It just isn't available; and NODC doesn't do it. It might have been designed to do it, but it hasn't. I think we have to move in where we give priority to the things dealing with natural resources.

Number five or 10(4) is "an undertaking for mineral exploration." John White moved that a couple of years ago in his budget. It isn't that radical. Nobody is doing sufficient exploration in northern Ontario. We simply can't keep young people in the north if we're not going to open up new mines through exploration.

Going back to the preceding motion that I moved, which is to give more assistance to those people who want to deal in the natural resource field, that's got to be the salvation for northern Ontario.

It isn't more commercial establishments in the traditional sense, but it's the discovery of new mineral wealth; and the exploration, the processing and manufacturing near the source.

I don't know where we have that yet in any bill. I realize you've got incentives for exploration, but they aren't doing all that much. You've got incentives, I believe, in The Mining Act, which allow for certain writeoffs if they process in the north, but they're not doing a lot of that despite that. The Falconbridge example is one, but what about Falconbridge moving off to Norway to expand its plant in Norway. That seems to me what they've said to us.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They spent \$60 million in Sudbury for that attempt.

Mr. Martel: Oh sure, but they've also expanded a plant in Norway for which we've given tax concessions in Canada. That certainly isn't to the benefit of the north.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Texasgulf.

Mr. Martel: Texasgulf is partly a Crown corporation today.

Mr. Wildman: And yet it still got involved in a campaign for free enterprise.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The Texasgulf expansion in Timmins would have never moved ahead had not we brought in the processing allowance and changes under The Mining Tax Act. I want to make that clear, because the then member for Cochrane South (Mr. Ferrier) was very adamant that these processing announcements be brought in to make sure of job opportunities. A massive amount of money, about \$400 million, is being expended now in the Timmins area because of that.

Mr. Martel: I don't want the minister to run a red herring into it. What I said was that despite what's in The Mining Act we're still allowing, if I recall correctly, 38 operations to continue processing abroad.

I don't want the minister to bring in a red herring. I want to say that despite what you've given it hasn't really led to much manufacturing of natural resources in the north. It hasn't led to that much processing. I'm not disputing it hasn't done a bit. But tell me why northern Ontario has a mass exodus of young people going south—and we know it—and why there are no jobs for women, if the program has been so successful.

[4:30]

I am just trying to provide a vehicle where we have other things at our disposal: (a) To do exploration; and (b) to encourage manufacturing and processing in the north. This would provide jobs for young people and jobs for women; for both of whom presently, unless you are a professional or a secretary, there is very little work.

You know and I know, Mr. Minister, that literally hundreds of young people, after the northerners have paid the cost to educate them, virtually migrate south to find work. One only has to look around or look at the census to realize that the populations in northeastern Ontario are not getting greater. In fact, conversely, they are getting smaller. Therefore the program the minister cites might have provided some incentive, but it hasn't gone nearly far enough if we are going to do the type of job we want in creating work for women and for young people whom we pay tremendous costs to educate. Surely you, as a northerner, are aware of that young people don't want to come south if they could find meaningful work in the north. But there is virtually nothing.

Mr. Williams: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Point of order.

Mr. Williams: As I understood, it was your intention to rule whether or not the amendments were in order—

Mr. Wildman: How about ruling if he is in order.

Mr. Williams: —and that the member who introduced them was being given the opportunity to explain the reasons for the amendments. But I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that he is expanding considerably beyond the explanatory comments on his amendments and is debating the merits of those amendments at this time. I suggest he should restrict himself to explaining the reasons for the amendments if you are yet to rule on whether or not they are in order. I would suggest that you take that under advisement and advise whether he is now debating the merits of the amendments or simply restricting himself to explanatory comment, which is what you had directed.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps I might say that we could address our remarks to the matter of the order of the amendments.

Mr. Martel: They are in order.

Mr. Foulds: Nobody is challenging—

Mr. Martel: You see, Mr. Chairman, that's right. Let me just go on with the last one, Mr. Chairman. I will save you any agony of getting into a hagggle on procedure, okay? I just want to deal with the last point, section 10 (5), the establishment of a fund, which is the third point. What we tried to provide was an economic package which would help northern Ontario.

It would be, in our opinion, an effort to provide an ongoing fund using the tax base the government now has, through Crown timber or through smelting and mining and so on, using just a portion of those moneys which we would set aside. It is in fact what the Conservative government in Alberta has done, although we would want it public, but the Heritage Fund in Alberta has been established for down the road when there is a rainy day.

All I am saying is I would hope that this minister would establish such a fund so that when Blind River gets in trouble, we might be able to provide some assistance; or it might be another municipality where the natural resource which makes that community viable starts to deplete. We might be in a position to draw on a fund which has been built up over a number of years to create a new industry related to a natural resource. It goes back to my earlier points and the

reason I keep going back is that all of these rely on one another. It relies on knowing where the ore bodies are, Mr. Chairman, and that's why we moved the one on exploration. If you know where the ore bodies are, then you can use the proposed Tomorrow Fund to go out and tap —

Mr. Reid: Yesterday.

Mr. Martel: My friend might think it's funny, but I think it makes abundant sense that you know where the—

Mr. Reid: It is an idea I came up with eight years ago.

Mr. Martel: Oh well good for you, then you should support it today. I am glad you are not going to vote against it. What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, without the—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: —nonsense from the member for Rainy River, is that that fund should be used and the reason we need exploration is to locate the resources which are available and then to draw on a fund which is there. Not some imaginary fund or only if the government has the money available, but a fund which has been established, based on the taxation base which is there, so that we can establish a new and viable industry maybe 30 miles or 50 miles down the road without changing the community centres.

That's why we want the Tomorrow Fund. That's why we need the Crown corporation to locate the natural resources because obviously the mining industry isn't doing it. That's why we need the Treasurer to be able to make loans available so that funds for those natural resources which are being exploited could be made available to someone who is interested in manufacturing close to those natural resources.

That's why we brought all three of them together. They weren't in isolation one from the other. One was based on the other, so that for the first time in northern Ontario we would know there was a mechanism in place whereby the government had at its disposal the knowledge and the funds to help in the proper development of northern Ontario if your friends in the free enterprise system don't want to do it. If they are not going to do it—and that's why John White obviously moved the motion in his budget a number of years ago for a Crown corporation for exploration—we simply can't wait for them to throttle us. We've got to do something ourselves to provide jobs for our young people.

I don't see any of this as being very radical. I think it makes abundant good sense

that we move in those three directions if we want to have the proper development of northern Ontario. With anything less than that, then the ministry just becomes window-dressing, as many northern Ontario citizens have felt. If the ministry is going to have some teeth—and we're trying to provide that today while you people are objecting to having the teeth to do the job—we want those teeth in the bill so that we set up a ministry which can do the things all of us in northern Ontario want done.

Mr. Chairman: It has been suggested by a member of the committee that the Chair consider ruling on these amendments. I looked over the amendments very carefully because I have had time, due to ample notice. The amendment to section 1 is contingent upon the amendments to sections 3 and 10. Looking over the amendments to sections 3 and 10 very carefully, in my view, section 3(1) is irrelevant to the bill and the other sections have to do with financial matters or the spending of moneys from the public purse.

I'd like to refer the committee to standing order No. 86 which reads as follows: "Any bill, resolution, motion or address, the passage of which would impose a tax or specifically direct the allocations of public funds may not be passed by the House unless recommended by a message from the Lieutenant Governor, and may only be proposed by a minister of the Crown."

In my view, the amendments put forward by the member for Sudbury East would direct the expenditure of public revenues by requiring the minister to make payments to various boards and commissions and other bodies and set up a fund constituting moneys derived from what is essentially a tax. It is my view that the member's three amendments are clearly outside the initiative given to any member or private member of this House. I therefore must rule the amendments out of order.

Mr. Martel: Could I just say one thing, Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence. I am not so hidebound that I have to move these. I certainly would allow the minister to take them as his own amendments. He could move them into this bill and we would accept them on this side of the House.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, may I speak to that?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. I do not believe the Chairman's ruling is debatable.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Are you challenging the ruling?

Mr. Foulds: No, I am not. I would like to ask you to state more clearly your reasons for ruling section 3(1) out of order. It is my understanding—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. I consider this an appeal to my ruling. Do I understand that's what it is?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Reid: It's irrelevant to the bill.

Mr. Foulds: You gave no reason, as I recall it, Mr. Chairman, for indicating that section 3(1) was out of order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It's irrelevant.

Mr. Foulds: It is my understanding, if I may, that section 3 deals with the minister's duties. Section 3(1) outlines one of the duties we feel it should be the responsibility of the minister to undertake, and I do not see how that could be considered out of order.

Mr. Chairman: In my opinion, in checking over the amendment to section 3, I consider my ruling, as being irrelevant to the section.

Mr. Foulds: I agree that your rulings are irrelevant. What I would like to—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. I will consider this a challenge to my ruling. If there—

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. Newman: Are you challenging him?

Mr. Cassidy: Obviously the member for Port Arthur is trying to find a constructive way of ensuring that parts of the amendment put forward by the member for Sudbury East can be considered. I wish that you would consider them in that light rather than automatically assuming that your ruling is being appealed.

It's my understanding that it is the right of any member of the Legislature to ask for a question to be divided and for the various parts of that question to be considered separately. That being the case, perhaps the member for Port Arthur or myself can ask you, Mr. Chairman, whether you would consider dividing that amendment and then considering the matters involved in it separately and ruling as to whether each of those subsections is admissible. Obviously the point you've raised—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: If I could conclude—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. I would say to the members of the committee, I ruled

that this was irrelevant to the bill because this is an amendment to section 3, and section 3 reads: "The minister shall preside over and have charge of the ministry."

By agreement of the whole committee, we did agree to take all amendments and consider them at one point. However, I still feel that section 3(1) is not relevant to the section 3 which it amends.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest of respect, surely sections 3 and 4 of the bill as it is printed deal with the duties of the minister. Surely the amendments that we have proposed under the subsections listed in section 3 have to do with the duties of the minister.

Mr. Rotenberg: Either challenge the ruling or accept it.

Mr. Reid: It doesn't at all.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Are there any other discussions on any sections of this bill?

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest of respect, I do not wish to be put in the position of having to challenge the Chair.

An hon. member: You are doing it.

Mr. Foulds: But I do wish that the Chair could explain the decision in clearer terms. The Chair has merely said that section 3(1) is irrelevant to the bill. The Chair has not explained why and has not given any justification for that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Isn't that enough?
[4:45]

Mr. Foulds: And if I may say so, with great respect, the following subsections don't entirely deal with money matters. Some of them direct initiatives on the part of the minister that have nothing to do with money matters. I think they should be taken, if I may say so, section by section, and that you give reasons for ruling they are out of order.

Mr. Chairman: First of all, I should say to the member for Port Arthur that I explained it clearly enough. If he wishes to challenge my ruling he may do so.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: There is nothing out of order.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, it has always been appropriate for a member to bring a point of order. Agreed? I believe that is the case.

Mr. Chairman: There is nothing out of order. We have only discussed the Chairman's ruling and what I considered an appeal.

Mr. Martel: Could I ask the Chairman a question then? Would section 3 be in order, Mr. Chairman, as an amendment to section 8 then—the functions of the ministry? I would ask the Chairman if it would be appropriate to move my section 3 in its entirety under the functions of the ministry.

Mr. Chairman: I would say it may be in order if it did not have anything to do with the expenditure of funds, which again is questionable.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, I am again asking for your clarification because I am not sure which of those you feel is directing the expenditure of any specific funds. We are talking about services, and we are just saying that the minister has to be responsible for guaranteeing that those services are made available in those communities.

Mr. Chairman: Looking at that amendment carefully it would be my opinion that the provision of local services would certainly have to do with funding and therefore it would be out of order.

Mr. Martel: It doesn't direct the funding.

Mr. Reid: Can we get a commitment from the minister that when we come back in the fall he will have these matters in hand, that he will have some kind of a bill set up to deal with the unorganized communities, and that the matters raised, with which we agree, will be dealt with as soon as we come back in the fall?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, if I could respond to that request. As I indicated to the hon. members of the committee, we were looking and we are looking at provisions in The Statute Labour Act and The Local Roads Boards Act to broaden the taxation base of that particular body, to expand beyond the collecting of assessment solely for the purpose of roads and road maintenance, which would allow that group to add \$2 or \$3 per home.

Mr. Reid: Yes, but are we going to get that in the fall?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes. Well, I don't know whether we can get it in the fall but I can and I will make a commitment to the committee that we are working on it, we are pushing it ahead as fast as we can.

I have to say that we would want some consultation with the people in unorganized areas. I think the thrust we are adopting now, with all due respect, is without consultation with those people in the unorganized areas. When we dealt with Bill 102 we went back after we introduced the bill and asked for their input. And you know the reaction we got. So I think the same thing would apply.

I have already tossed out a suggestion on the thrust that we are taking to many of the unorganized groups. They have come back with a very positive response, as has UCANO, saying this is the route to go. And if you will bear with us I can assure you that our thrust will be in that direction.

Mr. Martel: Could I say something to the minister then? It was my intention, Mr. Minister, as we got to the end of the bill, to suggest rather than try and take this to a committee, that you might, as minister responsible, form a subcommittee of the resources committee. They could go with you and, for the first time, visit the municipalities in northern Ontario; use a group of the legislators to get input—

Mr. Reid: From northern Ontario.

Mr. Martel: —from northern Ontario, to get input both from the unorganized townships and the organized communities as to what they see should be the function of the ministry. In fact I indicated to your deputy minister the other night and to the House leader for your party that it would be my hope when we got to the committee stage—and I don't want to delay passage of the bill—an ad hoc committee of the resources development committee might travel with the minister to allow these people in their communities to tell us what it is they aspire to.

The last time we sent primarily civil servants. I'm not belittling the civil service in any way, shape or form, but maybe it's time we sent a delegation of northern members to get input from both the unorganized and the organized communities in northern Ontario as to what their aspirations are and what they see are the solutions to the problems confronting northern Ontario. Instead of asking them to come to Queen's Park, a small committee should travel across northern Ontario to have input from them, giving them an opportunity to prepare their briefs. Maybe that's a way around it. The bill proceeds, but it just seems to me we should get some input from them for a change.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I appreciate the hon. member's response to my suggestion that we do get the input, and certainly I am prepared to give a lot of thought to his suggestion really. The thrust of this particular bill was to get input, because if this ministry is to be the ministry we want it to be for northern Ontario, then it has to come with a lot of input from people like yourself on both sides of the House and from the people out in the unorganized areas and all parts of northern Ontario. I would be prepared to give that some consideration.

Mr. Chairman: Because of my ruling on sections 3 and 10 of the bill, automatically the amendment to section 1 would also be out of order. Are there any other comments, questions or amendments?

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Your point of order?

Mr. Cassidy: I believe the House leader will agree that it's in the spirit of the new rules of the House that an amendment which can't be put because of a ruling like the ruling you've made can be attempted in another form without the notice that would otherwise have been given. It seems to me on looking at this that there are certain aspects of the amendment put forward by the member for Sudbury East which could quite fruitfully be added to section 8 of the bill, specifically those amendments that do not involve—and I quote from rule 86—a tax or the specific direction of public funds.

Perhaps the Chairman would like to comment on that right now, because I believe that subsections 1, 4 and 5 of the proposed amendment to section 3 could very easily be adapted to be added to the functions of the ministry, according to section 8; and the requirement of giving priority to undertakings which build on the natural resource base of northern Ontario can also be reworded with the same intention and be added into section 8. Would the chairman like to comment on that?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, I'd be very glad to make a comment on that to the member for Ottawa Centre. That question was previously asked and I have previously ruled that it would be out of order because it would have to do with the spending of public funds.

Mr. Cassidy: Well, okay.

Mr. Cunningham: Okay what? Sit down.

Mr. Chairman: That's my ruling.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, may I just speak to the ruling then?

Mr. Chairman: You are challenging my ruling?

Mr. Cassidy: No, I would like to speak to it. Is that not permissible?

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: Is it not permissible that a member can bring a point of order in this Legislature?

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, I don't think the member for Ottawa Centre should start to push the patience of the House. I

think we have allowed the member for Sudbury East a tremendous amount of time to get everything on the record that he wanted to get on the record with respect to the ruling of the Chair. In the spirit of co-operation, which I hope is dominating this House between now and 6 o'clock, we now have a ruling of the Chairman which is not a debatable matter. The member has the option now to challenge the Chairman's ruling. We are going to divide soon anyway on a number of matters and we can include that in the division.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, in the spirit of co-operation I won't press this matter further. I am distressed, though, at the idea that because of a desire to complete by 6 o'clock—

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. O'Neil: Let's carry on.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further comments to any section of Bill 21?

Sections 1 to 7, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 8:

Mr. Stokes: I think Mr. Chairman, that in the light of your rulings—which have gone unchallenged, although after considerable verbiage—we do have a responsibility as members of this Legislature, and certainly as members representing northern ridings, to be able to take back something to all of the people in northern Ontario. I think we need a much more complete explanation of the mandate that we're giving to this minister under section 8, which defines the function of the minister and the ministry.

These very vague suggestions like "preparing and recommending government plans, policies and priorities for northern Ontario." I don't know how often in this House we have, as northern members, called attention to the studies on top of the studies, and the reviews of the studies, that we in northern Ontario have been subjected to over the years. Now unless the minister is prepared to come forward with something much more concrete than is contained in this bill, we're going to have to go back to our respective constituents saying we passed a very vague kind of statute that we don't know the meaning of. After four months of having the ministry set up—and let's face it, the ministry has been in operation for some four months now—I think we're entitled to a much more complete explanation of what the functions of the ministry are to be.

When I hear "preparing and recommending government plans, policies and priorities for northern Ontario; establishing and administering ministry programs and co-or-

minating government programs and services relating to northern Ontario," I wonder just what all of this means. I don't want to delay the passage of this bill, but I think the minister should have been prepared to answer our questions in quite some detail. The most important section of the entire bill deals with the function of the ministry. I won't delay this debate any further as long as the minister can get up and be more specific as to the kinds of things that he's going to get into.

If he had suggested that he's going to deal with the needs and the aspirations of people in unorganized communities; if he said what he was prepared to do, in both an operating capacity and in a co-ordinating capacity with regard to the regional priorities budget; if he had got up and said what he was going to do with regard to the upgrading of the Design for Development for both northwestern and northeastern Ontario—most certainly the one for northwestern Ontario, which has been accepted as government policy now for about four to five years—I just think we as northern members, and I'm sure everybody as northerners, are entitled to a much more complete explanation of what you hope to do.

I'm not here to cross all of the t's and to dot all of the i's, but I think we're entitled to much more complete detail, a much more specific explanation as to what you see as your role as the minister and the role of this new Ministry of Northern Affairs. I'd like the minister, in as brief a way as possible, to be much more specific as to how he sees the function of his ministry.

Mr. Reid: Right, I will go for that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member for Lake Nipigon had been here during the early part of the debate—

Mr. Stokes: I was listening on my squawk box downstairs, so I don't think I—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: How do you have a squawk box?

Mr. Deans: It is an appropriate name when you are speaking.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Okay, but I don't have one.

Mr. Reid: That's all he's got left.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Seriously, Mr. Chairman, I did point out to the hon. members at that time that section 8 deals with the co-ordinating activities of my ministry. It spells it out very clearly—the policies and the priorities of northern Ontario, and the plans—

Mr. Reid: And establishes them?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The establishment of those policies, right—in a number of different ways, in about six different subsections to section 8. It clearly outlines where our responsibilities will be with regard to—

Mr. Stokes: No, it doesn't.

[5:00]

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, it does—with regard to co-ordinating. I think what the hon. member is driving at—

Mr. Stokes: Forgive me, but it doesn't.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I know what the hon. member is driving at are the budgetary expenditures or the administration we will be doing. I think that's the point he's driving at, and of course that will come up in the examination of the estimates later this fall.

The member hit on some very sensitive areas: The setting of priorities with regard to airstrips will be coming under our ministry. Priorities for new road locations will be coming under our ministry, as will the regional priority budget, which we're now moving into. There's also our thrust with ICAF for fire protection and the MAC committee, with whom we're meeting in Atikokan in late September to deal with the northwestern Ontario regional development strategy.

All those things will be fully debatable and they'll be outlined in great detail during the course of my estimates, but this particular bill is to establish the ministry, to give us the functioning power and the broad mandate to deal with all those areas. This is not the place at this point in time, with all due respect, Mr. Chairman, to go into those specifics.

I'm sure the member has read a number of the speeches I have been giving across northern Ontario where I outlined in great detail what our responsibilities will be as I see them. I'd be glad to send him copies of those remarks which go into the specifics he has questioned me on, but they're there, they're public and, quite frankly, I say with all sincerity that I hope to expand upon those that have already been announced. I think the member for Rainy River hit on a very good one with regard to NODC, as an example.

I have to say to you, sir, that we're not stopping with the program that I've already announced. We have a mandate and we're looking at all provincial departments to see what programs they have which are designed solely for north of Parry Sound; and if it's in the best interests of northern Ontario, we'll bring them over to Northern Affairs and administer them from our point of view and with the type of input that we want from

northern Ontario. We're not fixed and boxed into the programs I've spoken about to date.

Mr. Stokes: Just to pursue this a step further, it says in section 8(a): "preparing and recommending government plans, policies and priorities for northern Ontario."

I don't like to be uncharitable with the minister—we've got along very well in the past—but he talked about airstrips. It was my understanding that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications was going to build an airstrip at Wunnummin Lake and an airstrip at Kingfisher Lake. I asked the Ministry of Transportation and Communications through the office of Russ Killaire what the time-frame was. They told me that it has been pushed back one year because the Minister of Northern Affairs has just taken over responsibility for this and his priority is to establish airstrips at Muskrat Dam Lake and Bearskin Lake.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That's not true.

Mr. Stokes: You just got it through.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No.

Mr. Stokes: On what criteria did the minister make that decision to build those two in the riding of Kenora rather than in the riding of Lake Nipigon?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That's totally incorrect, Mr. Chairman. The airstrips at Kingfisher and Wunnummin are going ahead.

Mr. Stokes: In 1979.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In 1978.

Mr. Stokes: In 1979!

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In 1978.

Mr. Deans: Wait a minute. If I have to believe one of you—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We're looking at another one at Bearskin and at Deer Lake and, because of the poor location at Deer Lake, it will be 1979 or 1980 before we go there. But the ones that were planned, the policies that were established at MTC, are still in place. We're not changing them. I don't know where Mr. Killaire got that indication from. Not from me, that's for sure.

Mr. Stokes: I can send the minister a copy of his letter—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I wish you would.

Mr. Stokes:—but, as I say, that was probably a cheap shot; however, I used it to highlight the kinds of things that the minister is going to have to do and the approach he's going to have to take to problems if he's going to be believable. In other words, a lot of people have said that, with the establishment of this ministry, the Minister of Northern Affairs was going to be the highest paid

organizer in all of the province of Ontario. I don't associate myself with those comments—

Mr. Reid: But he mentioned them just in case.

Mr. Stokes: —but I want to be assured, and I want to be able to assure everybody in northern Ontario wherever they live, that this minister is going to be sincere and generous and that he is going to be genuine in his affirmation that he is going to look after all of the needs of all of the people in northern Ontario wherever they are, whether in the city of Thunder Bay, whether in small organized communities, or whether in unorganized communities. I'd just like some kind of assurance from the minister, here and now, that these are the kinds of problems that he personally is going to address himself to and pay attention to.

I know that my colleague tried to spell it out in more specific terms in the legislation and it's been ruled out of order, but I think that we should have at least that kind of assurance from the minister that that's the way he's going to approach his new task.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That goes without saying. I think if the hon. member would read some of my speeches, and I—

Mr. Cassidy: What an experience that would be.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —hope he would, the speeches that I made across northern Ontario, that very thrust to which he directed himself was explicit in those speeches—to look after the needs of all parts of northern Ontario. In fact the bill—

Mr. Stokes: Just to be specific, how sincere and how genuine were you when you announced the construction of a new generating station on the north shore of Georgian Bay, when you know full well that nobody in this government, including the Premier, can make that commitment until the Porter commission brings in its report?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I never announced anything for the north shore. I never did.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Come on, the election is over.

Mr. Stokes: When was the commitment made?

Mr. Wildman: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: On a point of order?

Mr. Wildman: The minister has just said that he never announced anything regarding

a generating plant on the north shore. I can give him the exact quote from the June 8 edition of the Sault Ste. Marie Star in which he stated that he would be pushing for the generating plant and he expected it to be located at Dean Lake.

An hon. member: That wasn't an announcement.

Mr. Reid: That's hardly an announcement.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to speak on section 8.

I think that it is unfortunate, and I can't express the regret that I have that the government and the Liberal Party do not seem intent on creating a really strong Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Reid: Don't give us that.

Mr. Foulds: That's true.

Mr. Reid: That's garbage. You don't pay any attention to the rules except when they suit you.

Mr. Foulds: Section 8, in my view—

Mr. Reid: Read subsection (b).

Mr. Chairman: Order please.

Mr. Foulds: Section 8 indicates that the main function of the ministry will be a co-ordinating function. "It is the function of the ministry to co-ordinate . . ." that indicates to me that all the ministry will do under the legislation as it is presently outlined, is form another level of bureaucracy through which northerners will have to go and that we can do without.

It is a shame that the constructive and positive amendments by my colleague from Sudbury East were not allowed and have not been supported by the other two parties in this House, because that would have given us a real Ministry of Northern Affairs.

An hon. member: They were out of order.

Mr. Foulds: I suggest to you that I would like the minister to answer this question. How, in this bill, does he have the authority to take the initiatives that he has already taken, for example, in the Cobalt situation, where he directly—

Mr. Reid: Section 8 covers everything.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Of course it does.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Foulds: If I understand those two interjections correctly, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister and the member for Rainy River to indicate how co-ordination is another word that stands for the expenditure of funds. If that is so, then we'll move our amendments under this section and they'll be in order.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I don't know why they're carrying on in this manner.

Mr. Foulds: Because we want a real ministry.

Mr. Reid: Their individual insanity has turned into collective insanity.

Hon. Mr. Welch: They are trying to get even. It's human nature.

Mr. Reid: If the hon. member would read section 8(b): "establishing and administering ministry programs and co-ordinating government programs and services relating to northern Ontario." I read "establishing and administering ministry programs" to mean, in language that we usually understand, at least in northern Ontario, that you can create a program and you can apply it.

Mr. Foulds: It's too bad you haven't got the principle of the bill before you.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It's in section 10, too, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Reid: I don't understand it. Most members on that side have been here in the House long enough and have been through other bills setting up a ministry where the bill has been set up in very general terms to provide for the outline and the functions of the ministry, and then other bills have come in to support the original bill. Regulations have been passed under the authority of those Acts. But never in any of the bills establishing a ministry have the functions been set out with all the i's dotted, or all the t's crossed and so on. This is hardly a new exercise.

I said I am in sympathy with the amendments put by my hon. friend, but I don't think according to the rules of the Legislature that they were in order in this particular bill. I think we have a commitment from the minister that we are going to have something in support of those programs and policies and priorities that we discussed during second reading—

Mr. Foulds: Have you read the first principal clause? Do you know what—

Mr. Reid: But the authority is there under section 8 to do exactly what we are all talking about.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Order. The member for Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very briefly on this section, section 8, we have heard from the member for Rainy River that this section covers everything and that this ministry will have the power to co-ordinate and administer programs in northern Ontario.

Mr. Reid: And establish them.

Mr. Wildman: But I agree with my friend from Lake Nipigon when he says that we need some kind of specific commitment. The minister's speeches across northern Ontario are not a specific commitment to anything, if the statement made on June 8 to the Sault Star by the minister is an indication of how specific recommendations are going to be made by this ministry. I was told by the Minister of Energy in the estimates last week that that statement cannot be taken as it was taken by everybody who read it. He said that we don't know what's going to happen on the north shore or won't know until the royal commission makes its report—in 1978 now, rather than late 1977. For the minister to claim he was misquoted—perhaps he was.

However I run into the same problem as the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) when it comes to airstrips. When the government announces that an airstrip is to be begun in Hornepayne, during the election they even have a sod turning ceremony. Then when I contact MTC I am told that they are not sure when it may go through. They say they are intending for it to go through, but they are not sure if it will go ahead at this time, or at what date it might go ahead.

So I just wonder what kind of co-ordination the minister is exercising and has exercised, and what relationship he has with other government programs and the other ministries in northern Ontario. We need something more concrete than what we have here, because the record so far isn't too encouraging.

Mr. Lane: Didn't even want a ministry to start with.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: What the hon. members refer to has all been stated. I have stated our position very, very clearly and strongly and I think to go ahead now would just be a repetition. If you just read Hansard it's there, as clearly as I can put it. If we just get on with the job of giving us the authority of establishing this ministry, then our goals and our objectives will be achieved. There is no question about that.

Mr. Hennessy: Being a resident of northern Ontario—and I have been there quite a few years—I can see the concern of the members from northern Ontario. But it seems that the opposition want to kill the program before it even gets off the ground. They are bringing in different resolutions, and different recommendations. They are all motherhood ones. They sound very good.

Mr. Chairman: I would remind the member that we are not on the amendments. We are now on section 8.

Mr. Hennessy: I think it's a good program. I support it 100 per cent and I think if you give it a chance to get off the ground, I am sure the minister will look into this and to the problems that are expressed here today.

Mr. Renwick: That's a really significant contribution.

Mr. Foulds: I'd like to make a small amendment, with your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, to section 8. I move to insert the words "and initiate policies and programs for" after the words "activities of" in the second line of section 8 and before the words "the government in." It would then read: "It is the function of the ministry to co-ordinate the activities of and initiate policies and programs for the government in northern Ontario."

[5:15]

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is in section 8 already, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Deans: If what the minister interjects were to be considered to be true, then of course the entire sentence stating it is the function of the ministry to co-ordinate the activities is redundant in itself, since the other matters spell specifically what the ministry is intended to do. What we are trying to do is make it clear that the ministry has not only a co-ordinating function, but in addition to that it has the responsibility for the initiation of the policies and programs. Otherwise, it says that the ministry simply co-ordinates.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please, I will place the motion.

Mr. Foulds moves to insert the words "and initiate policies and programs for" after the words "activities of" and before the words "the government in" in line 2 of section 8.

Mr. Foulds: If I might speak to the motion, Mr. Chairman. As the objection I expressed previously that the principal clause in section 8 states only "to co-ordinate," I just simply want to strengthen that initial clause so that the subsequent parts of the bill will have the effect that the minister indicates he wants them to have.

Mr. Breithaupt: I would just briefly say that if that is the interest of the minister to have that initiating ability with respect to this bill, then the amendment would seem most reasonable.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: If I may just comment, section 10 reads: "Upon the recommendation of the minister," which is, of course initiation, "the Lieutenant Governor in Council

may establish programs that benefit the residents of northern Ontario." So the ministry has the capacity, it's already there. It is not necessary in section 8.

Mr. Chairman: Any other comments regarding the amendment?

All those in favour of Mr. Foulds' amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "nays" have it.

This motion will also be stacked.

Sections 9 and 10 agreed to.

On section 11:

Mr. Martel: I have just a comment on section 11. It really bothers me. I considered trying to delete that. One of the reasons why I moved the community council was that it would have allowed us to delete that section. I don't want to be unkind really in this last day for the House leader, but I can see that being abused. Knowing the minister's track record, that causes me some fear about the types of appointments he would make. He might take his friends fishing into an area that is not allowed, and that sort of thing for which this minister is noted.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Please don't be political. That is your fear.

Mr. Renwick: It is very real too and he knows it. That's why he is smiling.

Mr. Martel: That is really carte blanche to appoint every Tory hack from here to Hoboken and back to some study.

Mr. Cunningham: At least you'd know where they are.

Mr. Martel: You've got them all in northern Ontario, the mayors who all got defeated last time. I won't name them as the minister knows. It really worries me how that can be abused. I am tempted to move that we delete it.

Mr. Cunningham: It is safer than probation.

Mr. Martel: As I say, the minister's track record is different from what that says. You know, "subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council"—which is the cabinet—"the minister may establish advisory committees to the minister and subcommittees thereto, appoint chairmen and members of such committees and subcommittees, fix the terms of reference of such committees and subcommittees, and fix the remuneration and expenses of the chairmen and members of such committees and subcommittees."

I want to tell you that I would trust a town hall meeting to elect people to do the studies a heck of a lot more than I do this

minister. I'm sorry to be so blunt. I'd take my chances with the local people back home coming up with a group rather than what that's going to open the door to. That's the floodgate.

It really bothers me and I want to put that on the record because I think the minister himself should eliminate that section. He might move to delete it because it just, unfortunately, is that grab-bag which allows all of the defeated friends and the friends of the defeated friends and the friends of the friends—

Mr. Renwick: Why don't you, in an act of good faith grant the omission of that clause? Just as an act of good faith?

Mr. Martel: Yes. It really bothers me.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: I didn't want to give him that power to appoint a bunch of people. I wanted to leave it to the local people and I wanted to leave it to the civil servants.

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: I didn't want it to come under this minister. Because I've been around too long.

[Applause].

Mr. Kennedy: That's accurate.

Mr. Lane: Careful or we are going to run you.

Mr. Martel: Well, I'll tell you. You people won't defeat me, never. You know, you're still 9,100 behind—

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. member have anything further on section 11?

Mr. Martel: —and that's a long way back.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Does the hon. member have anything further on section 11?

Mr. Martel: Well, I won't Mr. Chairman. I think I should remove it, but in the spirit of esprit de corps, I'll leave it.

Mr. Renwick: Surely the minister will move the deletion.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. minister.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I can't let the hon. member's comment go unchallenged, because during the course of the debate on second reading of this bill and certainly during the course of my comments this afternoon, I hope my thrust has been input. If there ever was a ministry that is going to rely on input, it's going to be this ministry, I can tell you that right now.

Mr. Renwick: You are magnificent, you really are. Your input. Input—and you select the people who are going to give the input.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: And that will allow the type of northern input that you—

Mr. Renwick: You are going to select them all. You are going to select them and pay them.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —that you want, really. If you want that involvement, if you want that advice, certainly it's got to come from those people out there and those advisory boards and from people who want to contribute. I think this is a very valuable section that will allow the ministry to go and get the advice from those experts who live in northern Ontario, really.

Mr. Renwick: That's right, they will all be miniature Leos—small lions.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: And I'm surprised, I'm really surprised that the member would stand in his place and ask that this be deleted. Really. Because I do believe he believes in input. I know he does. And I think he just misconstrued it for political reasons only. He has that fear—

Mr. Martel: It is all politically motivated.

Mr. Renwick: Yes, he knows that. He can't help but laugh about it. He knows what it is.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I can't accept it and I just want to say that we will use this to get the input of northerners to make sure that we as legislators do what northerners really want us to do.

Mr. Martel: A horrible section.

Sections 11 to 13, inclusive, agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Any further comments on any section of the bill? If not, we have two votes which have been stacked. I now call in the members. I would remind the members this is a 10-minute bell.

The committee divided on Mr. Martel's motion to insert a preamble in the bill, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 28; nays 68.

The committee divided on Mr. Fould's amendment to section 8, which was approved on the following vote:

Ayes 96; nays 0.

Section 8, as amended, agreed to.

Bill 21, as amended, reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with amendment and asked for leave to sit again.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 21, An Act to establish The Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, before calling the next order I wonder if the House would agree to revert to motions, because I want to make a change in the resources development committee.

Agreed to.

MOTION

RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Welch moved that Messrs. Ashe and Belanger replace Messrs. Rollins and McNeil on the resources development standing committee.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PEEL MUNICIPAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC
SERVICE ACT

Hon. J. A. Taylor moved second reading of Bill 56, An Act to provide for Municipal Hydro-Electric Service in The Regional Municipality of Peel.

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister have an opening statement?

Mr. Conway: He is glad to have visitors.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: This bill establishes new municipal hydro-electric commissions for each area municipality—Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon. As the principles established by this legislation could set the pattern for other municipal utilities, it has been extensively reviewed by the provincial steering committee, Ontario Hydro, TEIGA and the Ministry of Energy, in consultation with the local study team, the Ontario Municipal Electrical Association, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee.

The provisions of this bill have been, in general, agreed upon by these groups.

All customers within Brampton and Mississauga will be supplied with power by their new commissions. Customers within Caledon presently served by Ontario Hydro will continue to be served by Ontario Hydro until the Caledon council directs the Caledon Hydro-Electric Commission to expand its service area from the former town of Bolton to the Caledon municipal boundaries. This will become mandatory when a Caledon-wide

municipal utility becomes financially viable according to prescribed criteria.

May I again say that I wish to commend the local study team, the restructuring steering committee, their staff and Ontario Hydro for their endeavours in this regard.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I thought that both these bills, the one for Waterloo and the one for Peel, would come in together. The one for Waterloo, I understand, will follow immediately upon this and so the notes that I have made with regard to these bills refer to both the bills.

I certainly deem it a privilege to be able to speak to this bill and the one following, because I had the privilege of being a member of the study team in the regional municipality of Waterloo. We worked for two years on trying to bring in a report and now it looks like that work will come to fruition.

I am particularly pleased too that the bill for the regional municipality of Waterloo will be introduced today because, as all of the members know, there is a historical highlight that is associated with this in that in the city of Kitchener in 1910 the lights were first turned on by using the hydro power from Niagara.

Mr. Nixon: Adam Beck did it.

Mr. Conway: Is that when the lights were turned out on the Tories permanently?

Mr. Epp: Both of these bills were based on the Hogg report, otherwise known as the Restructuring of Public Utilities Report, of February 8, 1974. The committee brought that report in after being appointed on August 13, 1973. They proposed ways to integrate different utilities in municipalities. There is a considerable need for this restructuring because of the urban growth in the various municipalities. This is true in Peel as well as in Waterloo.

I know that in my own municipality of the city of Waterloo the population doubled about every 12 years, which is fairly significant, being one of the fastest growing areas in Canada. The restructuring also followed the regional government in various areas, including Peel and Waterloo.

It's particularly encouraging that the government has learned from regional restructuring because of the way that they went about and appointed the local committees. I think, to be sure, they appointed some local people on the restructuring committee and this is a significant improvement over the commissioners who were appointed for regional government. The people who were appointed were local politicians from

the regional council, some were local people on the hydro commissions, and thirdly, they were people from the labour union movement.

[5:45]

The difference too here is that once the restructuring occurs these people will be living in the community and will know what kind of positive aspects take place. That's different from the regional restructuring where once the commissioner gave his report he left town.

I'm prepared and my party's prepared to support both of these bills. I'm happy to say there was a considerable amount of public input into the various reports that went to the provincial steering committee, to the Hydro board and to the government of the day. The committee felt there was a considerable amount of urgency in the restructuring. First of all, there were 13 utilities in the regional municipality of Waterloo, including one for each of the various municipalities, plus Ontario Hydro. What they essentially did is reduce these to three utility commissions. The largest utility in the region of Waterloo will be servicing about 45,000 homes and that's a far cry from what currently is occurring where a utility might only serve a few hundred homes.

An important aspect here too is that the rates will be more equitably distributed in the region. At the moment, the rural areas that have been annexed to the urban areas are particularly upset with the high rates they're paying and they see no logical reason why these rates should be significantly higher than the urban areas. With the restructuring, there will be a redistribution of the rate structure and, I think, a more equitable distribution.

In both Peel and Waterloo, according to the Hogg report, we had two choices, both a lower tier and an upper tier. We had the opportunity of expanding on this. What happened in the regional municipality of Waterloo was that we actually selected a third alternative which meant, rather than have seven for the seven municipalities, we are going to end up with three of them. I might also say that of the various groups that submitted briefs 22 chose the third alternative, eight chose the lower-tier alternative, two of which as their second choice had the third alternative or the three utilities, and no one chose the upper tier or the one that corresponds with the regional boundaries.

One of the three utilities then will be Waterloo, Wellesley and Woolwich. Kitchener and Wilmot will be another. And this is important because of the fact that maybe for

once the city of Kitchener is going to return something to Wilmot in the form of power and so forth as opposed to always taking—and the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) knows this—water away from Wilmot as it has been doing for years.

Mr. Breithaupt: Just be careful what you say.

Mr. Epp: I think the people of Wilmot will feel somewhat repaid by this. Then there's the third utility—and they don't necessarily go in this order. There's the one in Cambridge, which brings into play Preston, Galt, Hespeler and North Dumfries. This is particularly important because of the fact that in Cambridge, in one municipality of about 75,000 people, they've had three local utilities servicing the city, plus Ontario Hydro.

I'm particularly disappointed that in Peel this report has seen fit in one way to violate the Hogg guidelines. However, my party is prepared to support this bill as it is now proposed, irrespective of this. I know that in the municipality of Waterloo our bill might have been slightly different had we known about this earlier. However, we'll leave it the way it is. I venture to guess too that had we had this data and had a local study team help restructure the region four or five years ago, we would not have the two-tier structure in the municipality as we now do but rather we would have larger municipalities, maybe four or five of them, which would serve the area rather than have the duplication which is now evident with regional government.

I would also have liked to have seen the minister recommend the appointment of all members of the new utilities by the councils rather than have the option of the councils appointing people to these utilities or having them elected. Had they all been appointed by the municipalities, this would have been in sympathy with local accountability, a principle that many people in this House have supported, where the council is responsible and where the public has a clear perception of who is responsible for the various services. It would also have been in sympathy with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's position on this matter.

Thirdly, I might note that in the Roberts report, which came out about a week or so ago, on page 106, Hon. Mr. Roberts recommended in point 6.4 that "local governmental functions be the responsibilities of municipal councils. The statutory provisions for all special-purpose bodies now operating within Metropolitan Toronto and its constituent municipalities, with the exception of

boards of education, be removed and the authority of these bodies assigned to their respective councils."

If these members were appointed by the councils—the councils have that opportunity, and I hope they exercise it—then they wouldn't have local elections and that probably would mean more accountability and save the people some tax money.

I am also happy to note that this bill corrects an oversight that was evident in the restructured bill, 167, dealing with the regional municipality of Waterloo, and in a number of other regional bills. In that bill one of the sections says that the mayors can stay on the local utilities commission even after they are removed from office in one way or another—if they resign or lose their positions through election. This is particularly important because I know that in our own case, in the regional municipality of Waterloo, there were a number of people who lost in the election of 1974 and then stayed on the hydro commission.

I have a note here with respect to mayors on PUCs, and I have been informed that as a result of the redrawn boundaries of Milton in the region of Halton, the current mayor of Milton now sits on and is remunerated for three PUCs—Burlington, Oakville and Milton. The amount of remuneration may not be that great but a duplication of services certainly is evident, and I think this bill will correct that and some of the mayors who have been sitting on PUC or hydro bodies for the last number of years will, as a result of this, not be able to remain on these bodies.

I would like to see the minister bring in legislation or take action to see that the other mayors in other regions are removed from the hydro utilities, because they are really there by default and they know they shouldn't be there; in fact, they are on the utilities by a fluke in the legislation and, as a result, the people in the various regions have to pay extra money for extra people on these commissions when they weren't intended to be on.

The various regions are happy for the special startup grants that the government has promised them. I know in the region of Waterloo it is going to total about \$219,000, and this will help tide them over during the transition period which will mean additional costs. The line of credit established by the Ontario Hydro equal to the maximum of one month's working funds of the new utility at Ontario Hydro's current borrowing rate will also come to fruition, I understand, and that will help during the transition period.

I am very pleased to have had the opportunity of speaking on this bill, to see it going

through today, because it means that on January 1, 1978, the two municipalities will then have restructured utilities. Various people have waited with—well, to over-dramatize it, I would have to say with bated breath. It hasn't been quite that, but I know the various politicians and the people in the utilities have been anxious to have these bills pass in this House, and this party would be pleased to support it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Welland-Thorold.

Mr. Conway: Mel, some of us want to eat.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I am conscious of the time and the desire of this House to prorogue, but I must say to you and to the House that I and my party are a little annoyed at the proceedings to deal with the Peel bill at this time. I suggest it is an unusual proceeding when it amounts to a rather substantial change of policy on the part of the government. Therefore I intend to speak to this bill for at least a short period of time, even though we may support it in the end.

Let me say at the outset that we are in support of the Waterloo restructuring bill and we are spending very little time on that. But the circumstances surrounding the Peel bill are substantially different, and I want to deal with those principles. I want to deal with the sequence leading to this bill that is before us here today—in fact leading to both bills that are here before us, but more particularly the one on Peel.

The restructuring of the hydro commissions, I guess was initiated first by the Smith commission in its recommendations about 10 years ago and as a result of that when new regional governments were formed, including the Niagara regional government, they froze the hydro commissions at that time, back in 1969.

Subsequent to that there was Task Force Hydro, which was established by the government and first reported August 15, 1972. It proposed a dramatic reduction in the number of hydro commissions in this province.

Following that the Hogg committee was appointed; it reported in 1974 with recommendations as to the procedures and the policies to follow in the restructuring of the hydro commissions. The Minister of Energy at that time did a study of that and made recommendations which were to be the procedures and the policies for the restructuring of Hydro in Ontario. He made that report in 1975.

The minister has already mentioned this in a somewhat different context but it is significant that his ministry and that committee consulted—and I am reading here—with the Ontario Municipal Electric Association, the Asso-

ciation of Municipal Electric Utilities, the Provincial-Municipal Liaison Committee, the Canadian Union of Public Employees 1000, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The minister brought forth a large number of recommendations of which the first was, Mr. Speaker, and I read as follows: "Recommendation No. 1: Where the local authorities desire to restructure the electric distribution system serving areas or regions covered by regional government, such restructuring will be conducted in accordance with the recommendations of the Hogg committee report as amended by the Ministry of Energy."

One of the fundamental recommendations of that report was as follows: "That the responsibility for the retailing of electricity should continue and expand at the municipal level and"—this is a significant sentence—"further, throughout any area defined by municipal boundaries there should be one retail authority." That was the policy of the Hogg committee which was adopted by the Minister of Energy at that time. Following that, there was a steering committee appointed by the government which was to deal with the local study committees and make recommendations to the government and

those concerned. Then local study teams were appointed in a number of areas, including Waterloo and Niagara and, subsequently, Peel.

Then last April there was a bill tabled to reorganize Waterloo in conformity with the Hogg report and government policy. The election intervened and that bill was not dealt with. Then that bill, along with the bill for restructuring of the hydro commissions in Peel and a policy statement by the minister to change—a significant thing—the guidelines, were all tabled in this House last Friday. The significant change was that prior to that time the policy had been that any commission must conform to municipal boundaries. There would not be more than one hydro distribution authority in a municipality.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Swart: I presume you'd like me to move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Speaker: No, not necessarily. This may be a convenient place for the hon. member to break his remarks, though. I presume we'll rise to recognize the clock.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 724)

Answers to questions were tabled as follows:

2. Mr. Eakins—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Ministry of Health table a list of all properties leased, rented or purchased by Browndale (Ontario) with public money, the value of such property, the present owner, the previous owner and the rent and terms of rent for each property where applicable. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell):

The Ministry of Health has not given any money to Browndale (Ontario) specifically for the purchase of property. Browndale (Ontario) receives an operating grant from this ministry based on a per diem rate.

The attached is a list of properties leased (rented), or purchased by Browndale (Ontario).

Property value is only available for those properties leased, as indicated.

Information is not available concerning previous ownership of properties leased (rented) or purchased by Browndale.

Address	Market Value \$	Lessor	Lease Term	Rent \$	Use — 1976 and 1977
Barrie Region					
371 Blake Street	126,000.00	Brown Camp Residential and Day School	Jan. 1976 to Dec. 1978	1,220.00	Office, Aftercare and Guest House
8 Murray Street	70,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
10 Murray Street	70,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
102 Bayview Drive	66,500.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
104 Bayview Drive	66,500.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
22 Eugenia Street	70,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
19 Broadmoor St.	70,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
48 Broadmoor St.	70,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
50 Broadmoor St.	70,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
120 Grove Street	70,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
122 Grove Street	70,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
140 Cundles		J. Stollar Construction Ltd.	no lease — Jan. 1976	605.00	Treatment House
144 Cundles		"	"	605.00	Treatment House
170 Cundles		"	"	605.00	Treatment House
170 Letitia		"	"	605.00	Treatment House
212 Huronia Road		Simcoe County By. of Ed.	"	1,138.00	School
Spruce Lake Camp		B.C.R. and D.S.	no lease (2 months)	3,000.00	Camp
Haliburton Region					
Canarvon		Brown Camp Residential and Day School	July 1973 to June 1978	600.00	Treatment House
Cranberry		"	"	600.00	Treatment House
Pine River		"	"	400.00	Treatment House
Art Barry		"	"	600.00	Treatment House
Stanhope School		"	Jan. 1976 to Dec. 1978	324.00	School
Tallpines		"	"	1,026.00	Vocational Training Centre and Guest House
Nesbitt House		"	July 1973 to June 1978	400.00	Treatment House
Airport Farm		"	"	600.00	Treatment House
Ira Barry Farm		"	"	600.00	Treatment House
Hilltop Farm		"	"	600.00	Treatment House
Morrison House		"	Jan. 1976 to Dec. 1978	815.00	(Vacant — Training School Centre)
Lochlaven		"	Sept. 1976 — open	1,500.00	(Estimated) — Treatment House
(replace Southridge)					Treatment House
Miscio House		P. Miscio	Sept. 1976 — open	375.00	(Estimated)
Office		(to be rented)	no lease	600.00	

Address	Value \$	Lessor	Lease Term	Rent \$	Use — 1976 and 1977
Midland Region					
239 Jeanne Street	58,500.00	Brown Camp Residential	Jan. 1976 to Dec. 1978	815.00	Treatment House
243 Jeanne Street	58,500.00	and Day School	"	815.00	Treatment House
251 Jeanne Street	42,000.00	"	"	815.00	Guest House
243 Hanley Street	58,500.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
309 Midland Avenue	90,000.00	"	"	815.00	Office
792 Ottawa Street	66,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
816 Ottawa Street	66,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
822 Ottawa Street	66,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
503 William Street	66,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
527 William Street	66,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
Verkuy School		"	"	815.00	School
(Wyvale) No. 1	85,000.00				
Lot 12, Con. 3 Tay No. 2					
Muskoka Region					
Huntsville					
Maple Heights	42,000.00	B.C.R. and D.S.	Jan. 1976 to Dec. 1978	815.00	Treatment House
(Muskoka Heights					Aftercare and Guest House
(School		(to be rented or purchased)	no lease	(estimated)	School
(Office		"	no lease	(estimated)	Office
(Trailer		J. Younger	no lease	200.00	Office — Maintenance
(Camp Muskoka		B.C.R. and D.S.	no lease	(estimated) 5,000.00	Camp
** (See list of properties owned for list of Treatment Facilities)					
North Bay					
School					
** (See list of properties owned for list of Treatment Facilities)		(to be rented or purchased)	no lease	(estimated)	School
Newmarket Region					
40 Main Street	55,500.00	B.C.R. and D.S.	Jan. 1976 to Dec. 1978	815.00	Treatment House
319 Park Ave.	90,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
53 Wilstead	57,000.00	"	Nov. 1973 to Oct. 1976	815.00	Treatment House
644 Srigley St.	73,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
Gorham No. 1	62,000.00	"	Jan. 1976 to Dec. 1978	815.00	Treatment House
Gorham No. 2	70,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
5 Tyler Street	69,500.00	"	"	756.00	Treatment House
Oak Ridges Farm		Oak Ridges Farm Ltd.	March 1975 to Feb. 1978	855.00	School and Office

Address	Market Value \$	Lessor	Lease Term	Rent \$	Use — 1976 and 1977
Peterborough Region					
351 Charlotte Street		W. R. Hamblin	Feb. 1976 to Feb. 1979	250.00	Office
Milburn Region School (South half of lot 5 Township of Smith)		Otonabee Region Conservation Authority	April 1976 to June 1978	600.00	School
Part lot 6, Con. 3 Township of Smith		Stollar Construction Ltd.	May 1976 — no lease	1,100.00	
245 Maxwell Ave.		"	June 1976 — no lease	750.00	Treatment House
1388 Heather Lane		"	"	950.00	Treatment House
876 Barnardo St.	50,000.00	B.C.R. and D.S.	July 1976 — lease in (estimated)	500.00	Treatment House
Thunder Bay Region					
160 LaSalle Street	33,000.00	Prown Camp Residential and Day School	Jan. 1976 to Dec. 1978	432.00	Treatment House
162 LaSalle Street	33,000.00	"	"	432.00	Treatment House
108 Newberry Cres.	33,000.00	"	"	432.00	Treatment House
110 Newberry Cres.	33,000.00	"	"	432.00	Treatment House
181 Newberry Cres.	33,000.00	"	"	432.00	Treatment House
183 Newberry Cres.	33,000.00	"	"	432.00	Treatment House
524 Red River Road	64,000.00	"	"	815.00	Treatment House
316 River House		"	lease in process (estimated)	600.00	Treatment House
River Bend Farm	310,000.00	"	Jan. 1976 to Dec. 1978	1,026.00	Treatment House
339 Toledo Street		J. Stollar Construction Ltd.	no lease	522.50	Treatment House
341 Toledo Street		"	no lease	522.50	Treatment House
600 South Leland		"	no lease	1,320.00	School and Office
** (See list of properties owned)					
Atikokan — 2 houses					
(to be built—rented or purchased)					
Treatment House					

Address	Market Value \$	Lessor	Lease Term	Rent \$	Use — 1976 and 1977
Toronto Region					
191 Gerrard St.		Weliva Ltd.	April 1974 to March 1984	1,250.00	Aftercare Office
15 Madison Ave.		Willow Tree Inv. Inc.	May 1974 to April 1984	2,528.00	Office — Psychologist
17 Madison Ave.		"	"	2,528.00	Office — Psychologist
19 Madison Ave.		"	"	2,528.00	Office — Administration and Research
29 Madison Ave.		"	March 1974 to Feb. 1984	2,324.00	Toronto aftercare school
31 Madison		"	"	2,054.00	Vacant — to be renovated
34 Madison		B.C.R. and D.S.	Sublet—Sept '76-Feb. '84	2,491.00	Browndale Centre for Education
35 Madison		Willow Tree Inv. Inc.	April 1974 to March 1984	1,517.00	Special Project — O.I.S.E.
36 Madison		"	Sublet—Sept. '76-Feb. '84	1,717.00	Browndale Centre for Education
43 Madison		Weliva Ltd.	Feb. 1974 to Jan. 1984	3,148.00	Office — Administration
189 Gerrard St.		"	April 1974 to March 1984 (litigation)	1,590.00	(potential treatment)
		"	Feb. 1974 to Feb. 1984 (litigation)	2,054.00	(potential treatment)
100 and 102 Winchester St.		Clifton Heights Ltd.	March 1974 to Feb. 1984	7,583.00	(potential treatment)
150 and 152 Winchester St.		"			
160 and 162 Winchester St.					
404, 406 and 408 Sumach St.					
	In litigation now to terminate lease Rent not paid by Browndale since 1 Mar. 76		(litigation)		

BROWDALE (ONTARIO) OWNED PROPERTIES
as of August 31st, 1976

Properties	Date of Purchase	Mortgagee	Interest Rate	Purchase Price \$	Land Value \$	Original Building Value \$	Depreciation Rate	Net Property Value \$	Use
Lot 38, Plan 13, Huntsville	Aug. 1, 1974	Metropolitan Trust Co.	12½%	50,938.95	10,000.00	40,938.95	5%	48,938.95	Treatment
Lot 39, Plan 13, Huntsville	Aug. 1, 1974	Metropolitan Trust Co.	12½%	48,553.95	10,000.00	38,553.95	5%	46,626.26	Treatment
32 Florence St., Huntsville	July 19, 1974	1st Victoria & Grey Trust Co.	12¼%	49,430.68	10,000.00	39,430.68	5%	47,459.15	Treatment
677 Copeland St., North Bay	Aug. 5, 1974	2nd G. & J. Middleton Metropolitan Trust Co.	13½% 12¼%	34,669.48	7,000.00	27,669.48	5%	33,286.01	Treatment
239 Francis St., North Bay	Sept. 1, 1974	Metropolitan Trust Co.	12½%	44,181.33	9,000.00	35,181.33	5%	42,422.26	Treatment
1 Tower Drive, North Bay	Sept. 1, 1974	Metropolitan Trust Co.	12½%	46,212.83	9,500.00	36,712.83	5%	44,377.19	Treatment
957 McIntyre St. W., North Bay	Oct. 31, 1974	1st Central Covenants Ltd.	13%	31,165.24	6,500.00	24,665.24	10%	28,698.72	Treatment
147 Worthington St., E. North Bay	Jan. 30, 1975	2nd Ken & Fern Fraser C. M. Polk	11% 12%	28,216.99	5,500.00	22,716.99	5%	27,175.82	Office
400 Arthur St., Thunder Bay	May 1, 1975	1st Lillvin Realty Ltd.	16%	48,190.00	9,500.00	38,690.00	10%	45,610.68	Guest House
Redstone Camp, Haliburton	Jan. 1, 1975	2nd Kinross Mortgage Ltd. Mrs. J. Millers	10¾%	118,500.00	83,500.00	35,000.00	10%	115,000.00	Camp

3. Mrs. Campbell—Inquiry of the Ministry: Will the Ministry of Health table a list of properties purchased with public funds by Browndale (Ontario) for use in their treatment program, the price paid for these properties and their previous owner; and will the ministry provide the House with the Legislative authority which permits this expenditure. [First Tabled March 31, 1977. Interim Answer April 14, 1977. Tabled June 27, 1977.]

Answer by the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell):

Browndale (Ontario) has acquired a number of properties by direct purchase principally in the Huntsville and North Bay regions.

Browndale (Ontario) has not received any public funds to purchase properties, the pur-

chase moneys were derived from mortgages and bank loans.

Browndale (Ontario) receives operating grant assistance on a per diem basis, under section 19 of Children's Mental Health Centres Act, in conjunction with section 11, Ontario Regulations 32/71 and sections 1 and 5, Ontario Regulations 577, as amended.

While no part of that funding is specifically earmarked for payment of loan interest and depreciation costs, such costs are recognized items of expense for operating grants under the above-noted legislation.

The attached is a list of properties purchased by Browndale (Ontario) for use in their treatment programs.

Information regarding previous ownership of these properties is not available.

BROWNDALÉ (ONTARIO) OWNED PROPERTIES
as of August 31st, 1976

Properties	Date of Purchase	Mortgagee	Interest Rate	Purchase Price \$	Land Value \$	Original Building Value \$	Deprecia- tion Rate	Net Property Value \$	Use
Lot 38, Plan 13, Huntsville	Aug. 1, 1974	Metropolitan Trust Co.	12½%	50,938.95	10,000.00	40,938.95	5%	48,938.95	Treatment
Lot 39, Plan 13, Huntsville	Aug. 1, 1974	Metropolitan Trust Co.	12½%	48,553.95	10,000.00	38,553.95	5%	46,626.26	Treatment
32 Florence St., Huntsville	July 19, 1974	1st Victoria & Grey Trust Co. 2nd G. & J. Middleton	12¼% 13½%	49,430.68	10,000.00	39,430.68	5%	47,459.15	Treatment
677 Copeland St., North Bay	Aug. 5, 1974	Metropolitan Trust Co.	12¼%	34,669.48	7,000.00	27,669.48	5%	33,286.01	Treatment
239 Francis St., North Bay	Sept. 1, 1974	Metropolitan Trust Co.	12½%	44,181.33	9,000.00	35,181.33	5%	42,422.26	Treatment
1 Tower Drive, North Bay	Sept. 1, 1974	Metropolitan Trust Co.	12½%	46,212.83	9,500.00	36,712.83	5%	44,377.19	Treatment
957 McIntyre St. W., North Bay	Oct. 31, 1974	1st Central Covenants Ltd. 2nd Ken & Fern Fraser	13% 11%	31,165.24	6,500.00	24,665.24	10%	28,698.72	Treatment

13. Ms. Bryden—Inquiry of the ministry: Will the Minister of Culture and Recreation please supply the following information: 1. A list of Wintario grants announced by press release between April 29, 1977 and June 9, 1977, showing date of press release, recipient, locality of recipient, amount of grant, and purpose of grant. 2. Were any Progressive Conservative candidates in the 1977 provincial election notified in writing by the ministry of any of these awards. If so, please indicate which ones and which candidates received such notice for each grant, and date of notice to candidate. 3. Were any

of these awards announced by the Minister of Culture and Recreation at public meetings or press conferences. If so, which ones, and what was the date and locality of the announcement. 4. Were any other Wintario grants announced by the Minister of Culture and Recreation during the period April 29, 1977 to June 9, 1977. If so, please list grant, date, recipient, locality, purpose and place of announcement. 5. The same information as requested in 1, 2, 3 and 4 above is requested for multicultural grants from the Ministry. [Tabled June 29, 1977.]

Answer tabled as a return, Sessional Paper No. 54.

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 Bernier, Hon. L.; Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)
 Bounsall, E. J. (Windsor-Sandwich NDP)
 Breagh, M. (Oshawa NDP)
 Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
 Bryden, M. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
 Conway, S. (Renfrew North L)
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 Goulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
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 Grande, A. (Oakwood NDP)
 Havrot, E. (Timiskaming PC)
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
 Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South PC)
 Kerr, Hon. G. A.; Minister of the Environment (Burlington South PC)
 Kerrio, V. (Niagara Falls L)
 Lane, J. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)
 Lewis, S. (Scarborough West NDP)
 MacBeth, Hon. J. P.; Provincial Secretary for Justice and Solicitor General (Humber PC)
 MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
 McClellan, R. (Bellwoods NDP)
 Ewen, J.E. (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Ron, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
 Barton, Hon. K.; Minister of Community and Social Services (Kingston and the Islands PC)
 Neil, H. (Quinte L)
 Philip, E. (Etobicoke NDP)
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 Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L)
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 Thorpe, Hon. J. A.; Minister of Energy (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)
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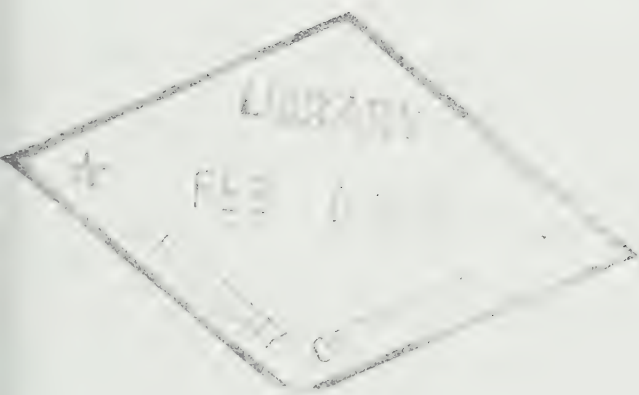
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Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Education (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Williams, J. (Oriole PC)



No. 20

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)
Daily Edition



First Session, 31st Parliament

Tuesday, July 12, 1977

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Russell Daniel Rowe

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, Q.C.

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An alphabetical list of members of the Legislature of Ontario, together with lists of members of the executive council and parliamentary assistants, appears as an appendix at the back of this issue.

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Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1977

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

PEEL MUNICIPAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC SERVICE ACT (concluded)

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, prior to the dinner break I had briefly traced the hydro-electric commission restructuring program up to the introduction of the two bills, the Waterloo bill and the Peel bill which were tabled Friday last, and the place of the steering committee in the overall restructuring. Of those two bills the Waterloo bill, of course, conformed to the guidelines and generally to the views of the steering committee. But the Peel bill we are considering now did not.

There was one fundamental revision in that bill—one fundamental difference to the Waterloo bill and to the guidelines and to the policy of the steering committee and the Hogg report. That was that it would permit more than one hydro-electric distribution system within the boundaries of a municipality. So the minister, to overcome that, tabled new guidelines. Perhaps I can quote briefly from them where he stated that:

"Where it is decided locally as part of a regional overview that a municipality cannot yet support a viable utility to serve all of its residents, then Ontario Hydro's rural system may continue to serve those parts of that municipality which it now serves, the municipal council being given the responsibility to decide when the municipal hydro-electric utility should extend its service area. In the interim the council would review electrical supply at least every three years and a unified municipal utility would operate any pre-existing municipal electric systems."

As I say, that was rather a wide departure from the previous policies and the policies of the government bodies. I would point out that a rather dramatic change was made without prior consultation with all of the other organizations as had been the case when they had set up the previous guidelines. I would also point out that the background of those changes is one of real controversy in the bodies associated with the

government, particularly the steering committee.

Let me read, Mr. Speaker, the letter from the chairman of the steering committee to the board of directors of Ontario Hydro, dated May 18, 1977. I won't read the whole letter, but I want to read pertinent parts of it. He states:

"An advance copy of the local study team recommendations"—he is referring here to Peel, of course—"had been provided on April 7, 1977, to the steering committee for its prior examination so that the process necessary for approval might be expedited. Based on these reports the steering committee prepared a commentary, and following established procedure submitted this to the local study team on April 25, 1977.

"In so doing, the steering committee afforded the local study team the opportunity of discussing the commentary prior to formal submission to the board of Ontario Hydro. In fact, the steering committee offered to meet with the local study team if so desired. However, it is also stated that as no such request had been received by May 9, both the commentary and the Peel region reports will be forwarded in their entirety to the board of Ontario Hydro.

"A meeting was initially requested by the chairman of the local study team for May 2 to indicate that its objective was to seek a compromise which would be acceptable to all parties. This meeting was subsequently cancelled by the vice-chairman of the local study team who indicated there was no further need for such a meeting. On May 4, 1977, the Hon. James Taylor, Minister of Energy, announced that he concurred with the recommendations of the local study team and indicated that appropriate legislation would be introduced early in the next session of the Legislature. It is significant that the Minister of Energy adopted in its entirety the Peel local study team recommendations without the benefit of the report flowing through the approved channels. A copy of this announcement is included with this submission.

"Notwithstanding this announcement, which embodies a concept that is in conflict with provincial guidelines, the steering

committee in accordance with its terms of reference as approved by the board of Ontario Hydro submits herewith its commentary and the local study team recommendations for electrical utility restructuring in Peel region. With the exception of recommendations 2 and 3, the Peel local study team report appears to be a copy of the Waterloo local study team report. The essence of recommendations 2 and 3 calls for the creation of two new utilities, one to serve the city of Mississauga and the other the city of Brampton. The town of Caledon would retain the status quo, continuing to be served by Ontario Hydro and the Bolton Hydro. "The steering committee takes no exception to the formation of new utilities in Brampton and Mississauga. But to allow the town of Caledon to remain as it is has very substantial implications locally and in other areas under study. The Peel report ignores the advantages of the Caledon customers of an upper-tier utility structure. Further, it denies the over 6,000 customers outside the Old Bolton boundaries of the initial advantages of a lower-tier utility. It also denies the long-term advantages which would ensue through the provision of a lower-tier organization to all customers in the town. It does nothing to resolve or lessen the existing disparity of rates and service conditions.

"It must, therefore, be assumed that pressure will continue to be applied from the rural customers located on the periphery of Old Bolton seeking a more favourable municipal rate. Therefore, the Peel local study team report fails insofar as Caledon is concerned in meeting either the principles or the guidelines of restructuring. Although the resource group report indicates that there would be advantages if a lower-tier utility was formed in the town of Caledon, the Peel local study fails to recognize this alternative.

"The steering committee can only conclude, without evidence to the contrary, that the Peel local study team rejected all other alternative solutions before selecting the retention of the status quo in Caledon, an alternative which is contrary to government policy as spelled out in the approved guidelines. The local study team's minutes and the resource group report document that upper-tier and lower-tier utility structures were studied and found to be viable. The steering committee, therefore, cannot accept the findings of the Peel report as submitted as it contains elements contrary to the steering committee's terms of reference and the approved guidelines."

That's the end of that letter, Mr. Speaker.

So there was real conflict there. The steering committee submitted its 20-page commentary almost totally critical of the study team recommendations in Peel. The commentary is also included here. Everyone will be glad to hear that I am not going to quote the whole thing, by any means, but I think it is important to put some of it into the record.

They say, for instance, that "historically the development of municipal utilities was encouraged to the extent that legislation, section 68 of The Power Corporation Act, permitted the establishment of utilities in high density segments of townships which financially could not afford an electrical utility for the total municipality. In respect to the Peel proposal on the retention of the Bolton service area within the town of Caledon, it should be noted that the aforementioned legislation was amended in 1951 to no longer permit the establishment of an isolated area within a municipality nor the expansion of such an area."

Further, this report states: "In addition to the traditionally higher rates charged to customers in the rural system there are other differences between rural and municipal customers which should be noted and considered, particularly in areas such as Caledon, which seem willing to accept two authorities supplying retail service within the one municipality."

It goes on to talk about the study and says this: "It is unfortunate that the Peel restructuring study did not include early contact with the special public and community groups. Had there been a buildup of information during the 16 months the study was under way, there would likely have been more interest shown in the public participation process. The communications process employed in Peel is deemed as inadequate to ensure satisfactory publicity and a reasonable response from the public. It appears to have been a question of too little, too late with insufficient time for proper planning and arrangements."

Finally, the report of the steering committee deals with the implications of the Peel recommendations and says this: "Acceptance by Ontario Hydro and the provincial government of the Peel recommendations, particularly those relating to retention of the status quo in Caledon, will have far-reaching effects both locally and provincially."

The Peel report ignores the advantages to the Caledon customers of an upper-tier utility structure. Further, it denies the over 6,000 customers outside the Old Bolton boundaries the initial advantages of a

lower-tier utility. It also denies the long-term advantages which would ensue through the provision of a lower-tier organization to all customers in the town.

"It does nothing to resolve or lessen the existing disparity of rates and service conditions. It must therefore be assumed that pressure will continue to be applied from the rural customers, located on the periphery of the Old Bolton seeking a more favourable municipal rate.

Therefore, the Peel local study team report failed insofar as Caledon is concerned in meeting either the principles or the guidelines of restructuring. Although the resource group report indicates that there would be advantages if a lower-tier utility was formed in the town of Caledon, the Peel local study fails to recognize this alternative and insofar as Caledon fails to meet either the principles or the intent of restructuring.

"Lacking a rational or supportive data on the recommendation for Caledon, the steering committee is of the opinion that to accept this recommendation requires that one of the basic ground rules for restructuring be abandoned. The Peel report suggests the high-density core areas of the region, because of antipathy towards upper-tier services, are prepared to deny the more sparsely populated sectors the advantages of an upper-tier structure."

In summary, it says: "The steering committee can only conclude, without evidence to the contrary, that the Peel local study team rejected all other alternative solutions before selecting the retention of the status quo in Caledon, an alternative which is contrary to both the intent and letter of government policy as spelled out in the approved guidelines. The local study team's minutes and the resource group report document that upper-tier and lower-tier utility structures were studied and found to be viable. The steering committee cannot accept the findings of the Peel report as submitted, as it contains elements contrary to the committee's terms of reference and the approved guidelines."

That is a pretty clear indication of the steering committee's views of the local study team's proposals for the restructuring in Peel.

A reply was sent on June 30 by Ontario Hydro, signed by the chairman, Mr. R. B. Taylor, to the Hon. James Taylor. It said, in part—and I'm only going to quote part of it: "At its meeting of June 13, 1977, the Hydro board considered the attached report and recommendations for restructuring electrical distribution utilities in the regional municipality of Peel. You will note from the cover-

ing letter that the steering committee found itself unable to endorse the findings of the Peel report, as it contains elements contrary to the committee's terms of reference in the implementation of the guidelines for the restructuring of municipal utilities, dated February 11, 1975.

[8:15]

"The board agreed with the steering committee's position. Nevertheless, it directed that in accordance with your announcement of May 4, 1977, I forward the report to you. As you know, this unusual situation raises questions as to the manner in which restructuring is to be carried forward elsewhere and as to the role of the steering committee and the Hydro secretariat devoted to this work. In this connection, I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Baldwin's letter of June 9, 1977, indicating the committee's position."

The letter goes on to say: "In our view, the original objectives, improved cost effectiveness and fairness in the distribution of electricity across the province, continue to be most important. Unless we can continue to work within a common set of guidelines and procedures, effective progress is unlikely and continuation of substantial expenditures on this function will not be warranted in excess of \$1 million per year." Then they go on further to make three recommendations, the last of which says: "Subsequent restructuring includes the entire area within established municipal boundaries as a general policy from there on in."

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, we have to make a decision on Peel three days after guidelines have been tabled, when there's been no consultation with regard to this major change in guidelines and where there has been strong objections from the minister's own steering committee and from Ontario Hydro. Granted that it may be said this bill incorporates the local wishes—and I don't deny that, these are the local wishes perhaps of the majority of people—and granted that it can be said there's need to deal with it now so that it can be implemented at the first of next year, however, I question that if it was so important then it should have been dealt with and tabled last spring.

It may even be said that this policy is a good one. I'm not sure at this time whether the change is good or bad.

Mr. Grossman: More or less.

Mr. Kennedy: Ask the minister.

Mr. Mackenzie: Are you going to trust him?

Mr. Crossman: Read the debate.

Mr. Swart: It can be reviewed every three years, and that's one of the problems. The bill says a municipality shall review it every three years. I suggest that doesn't mean very much. One might even say now that the steering committee and Ontario Hydro perhaps have moderated their objection but if it is moderated, it's only moderated to a minimum degree. I can say with absolute assurance that what we have here is a fundamental change in principle that ought to have adequate debate and ought to have adequate consultation before we are dealing with it here.

The precedent, effectively adopting the new guidelines, can really put all of the restructuring back to square one because if we permit one, two or more distribution services within the municipality, then the government could lift the freeze on Niagara, as an example, and everything would be exactly the way it was eight years ago before it put the freeze on. What I'm saying is that surely we in this opposition should have the right, even if the minister didn't want it, of time to consult, to examine thoroughly and to present the views and to hear and present the views of the steering committee and the Ontario Hydro to our caucuses. I just say that I think this is a deplorable way of conducting the public business.

Mr. Kennedy: I would like to speak briefly to this. The existing legislation provides that any change in the utilities' structure would be made—the terminology is “at the pleasure of the minister.” This means it can go on and on and on with great difficulty, not knowing when and if changes will be made and, if they are, whether they would encompass the whole area or one section of the Peel region.

As a former commissioner of our local utilities commission, I have some knowledge and understanding of this and of the numerous meetings that have taken place over many years in preparation for the stage that we find ourselves at now.

I would agree with the hon. member, because it's a fact, there has been some variation from the steering committee report. I don't think in the overall that this is a major thing to get ourselves all exercised about. There has been no imposition of legislation to restructure Peel—there wasn't when regional government was established, despite what we might hear from others.

Mr. Mackenzie: Was it in Hamilton-Wentworth?

Mr. Kennedy: I wasn't talking Hamilton-Wentworth; that is apart from the principle of the bill.

This restructuring was worked out by mutual agreement through a lot of hard work by interested individuals. The bill provides for sound administration of hydro affairs. I think this is the overriding theme. The principle is here for a commission to be renewed periodically and through democratic fashion, either through election or by the people of the various municipalities. This is much better than it is now. Again, I say, this is overriding.

There can be changes to this legislation as time goes on, as the areas mature, as the transitional period takes place and, over a few years, periodically, as is necessary, these changes can be made.

I'm particularly pleased that there has been provided in the legislation a transitional period. I'm pleased also with the makeup of the commissions, with the provision for replacement in democratic fashion, as I say, either through election or appointment in the years ahead.

In our own area in Mississauga, I'm particularly pleased they took into account the existing three utilities—Mississauga, the former Toronto Township, Port Credit and Streetsville. I think it's been very thoughtfully done when there's provision made for a commissioner to come from Port Credit and from Streetsville; the others can be from Mississauga or over the whole area. I think it's been very well put together. It will make for equity across the area, across the Peel region over the years ahead.

It's high time this was introduced. I commend the minister for bringing it forward. I'm glad we had the extra day or two in the House here which gave us the opportunity to bring this bill forward. I'm glad it's in place; we'll have time now for the commissions to go to work and be prepared when it comes into effect. I commend the minister and the commissions for bringing it forward.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: May I, first of all, thank the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) for his very constructive overview, the perspective he has put on on this bill—

Mr. Sweeney: We have the best ones over here.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: —and bringing to this House his own personal experience and expertise in regard to this whole matter of restructuring a public utilities commission. I know that he has personally served on a local restructuring committee. I think the remarks

and the overview that he has afforded the House have been very helpful indeed.

There was some concern expressed by the member for Waterloo North, which was magnified somewhat by the member for Welland-Thorold, and that was in connection with the flexibility exercise in regard to the principles as enunciated by Hogg.

Another matter of concern was whether the commissioners should be appointed or whether they should be elected by the people at large. That has been a continuing problem. The relationship, as indicated in the reference to the Robarts report and in that respect again the consideration of special-purpose bodies, as well as the ultimate responsibility of the local municipal council in regard to those bodies, is certainly something that has been debated for a number of decades. It is an area that we considered carefully and left to the local council to determine whether that would be by appointment or by election at the local level. I think that's a fair resolution of that problem.

I would say to my friend from Welland-Thorold that the material he read in his submission is not quite current, in that we did indeed meet with the chairman of the steering committee on June 30, which was subsequent to the correspondence that was read. We discussed these issues and, after describing what the problems were and the need for some potential for flexibility, the chairman concurred and endorsed that deviation or flexibility as manifested in a statement that I made in the House on July 8.

Mr. Swart: It is not all happiness there.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Surely, if the hon. member really has a commitment to individual problems in his own community, he will appreciate that there's a need for consideration of those anomalies as they occur throughout the province; he will concur that there should not be a rigidity that frustrates the implementation of an overall plan to restructure utilities commissions to make them more equitable in terms of delivering electrical power to the consumers in the communities.

My friend from Welland-Thorold may well think, whether one is dealing with regional government or utilities commissions, that these things should be imposed from above. I disagree with that. I think it's essential that you communicate with the people who are going to be affected. If there is some variation, if there is some minor deviation or flexibility, then all right, so be it; let's accommodate the wishes of the local people. I don't apologize for that.

Mr. Warner: The local people want you to resign.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That's got to be the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere again. It's the only word he knows. He's got a limited vocabulary.

Hon. J. A. Taylor: It was for that reason that I suggested this flexibility. The member is right; it will apply to others. As a matter of fact, I met with the delegation from the Waterloo area to explain to them that we were introducing this flexibility or openness to give them a chance to review and reconsider the position they had taken, as manifested in the earlier bill that was introduced in this House. We gave them the opportunity to consider that maybe the rules have changed a little bit and asked: "Now do you want to proceed with this bill or do you not want to proceed with this bill?" And they were unanimously in favour of proceeding with the bill.

[8:30]

I think that's a principle we will have to apply right across this province, if we are going to accomplish the restructuring that is necessary. This has been going on for at least two years, and the members will notice these are the first two bills to come out of that. I think that establishes something—that it is necessary to be responsive to the local wishes. It was for that reason—

Mr. McClellan: Stop while you are ahead.

Mr. Kerrio: Jim, we are going to pass it.

Mr. Warner: Is this better than being useful?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: —that I introduced those changes and I certainly don't apologize for that. That is a principle that I think we are going to have to deal with. As a matter of fact, it is a principle that the member for Welland-Thorold himself wishes in terms of a delegation that met with him in regard to the need for some fresh approach or flexibility in his own area.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

WATERLOO ELECTRICAL SERVICE AREAS ACT

Hon. J. A. Taylor moved second reading of Bill 55, An Act to establish Electrical Service Areas in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment very briefly. My remarks that I made earlier with respect to the Peel bill also apply to this bill. I was pleased to be able to work

in the restructuring committee, and my party supports the bill.

Mr. Swart: Very briefly.

Hon. B. Stephenson: That's a switch, that's switch.

Mr. Renwick: Will the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick get into his own seat before he comments in this House?

Mr. Swart: As I have already stated, Mr. Speaker, we very much support this bill in principle.

There are two or three comments that I want to make on the bill. I have a little concern about the implementation of section (9) whereby the majority of the members of any commission may not be members of council. My concern is that the council that beats the other council to the gun may be able to appoint another member of council, and then the other councils in that commission will not, because that will make a majority of members of council. I would think that some thought should be given to working that out so that a problem doesn't evolve in that regard.

Recognizing what the Minister of Energy said, I note that section 2(13) states the remuneration of the commissioners shall be subject to the approval of Ontario Hydro. When this is the first restructuring bill—or perhaps the second if you count Peel—it would seem to me that that authority should have been left with the local municipalities to let them determine, in the interests of local autonomy, what the members of that commission should receive.

Mr. Gregory: You have never been in Peel—you would never know.

Mr. Davidson: The minister finished saying the same thing.

Mr. Warner: Apologize for waking him up.

Mr. Swart: I think, Mr. Speaker, there may be some difficulty in section 6(2) with regard to the appointment of the auditors, where there has to be unanimity. I think it might have arrived at some procedure that would have made it easier to appoint the auditors.

Finally, on both this bill and the previous bill, I wonder why all full-time employees at the time of the passing of the bill are not taken care of, rather than just from January 1 of this year when they are assured of positions and to be considered in the new restructured utility.

Mr. Sweeney: Just once again like everyone else I will speak very briefly. This bill concerns my riding. I have three areas of the riding that have been annexed to the city of Kitchener since 1972-73 and have been pay-

ing a different hydro rate from the rest of the city. The constituents in that area have made it very clear to me they feel this is unfair. This bill will resolve that particular injustice, and I am quite happy to support it.

I am also reasonably sure that my constituents in Wilmot township will be equally happy to see that the good citizens of Kitchener will help them pay their hydro bills and consequently, I'm happy to support that.

Mr. Speaker: Any other comments on this bill? The hon. minister then.

An hon. member: Why don't you just repeat the first speech?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: The bill reflects the will of the local people. I think generally everyone is in support of the bill. The area municipalities do indeed fix the compensation in terms of payment of salaries to the commissioners. The effective date is January 1, and all of the rights of the employees are protected in the bill in terms of sick leave, retirement benefits and so on.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for third reading.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 55, An Act to establish Electrical Service Areas in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch moved second reading of Bill 47, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act.

Mr. Cassidy: I want to be quite brief in commenting on this bill but I wanted to say a couple of words on it. As the select committee on the Legislature and on the reports of the fourth and fifth reports of the Camp commission stated, the members are always in an invidious position when it comes to initiating increases in their own salary. There has certainly been an enormous concern about the salary position that members have suffered. Obviously we welcome this bill, even though we deplore the time that it took, the four years that it took before this bill was brought before the House.

I don't want to say it at length, but I think that as far as members on this side of the House are concerned we feel unhappy and somewhat bitter about the attitude taken by the Premier (Mr. Davis) in relation to the members of the Legislature. During the

1975 election campaign, the Premier made a pledge about members' salaries. It was not—the *Globe* to the contrary notwithstanding—a pledge which was shared by the leaders of the other two parties or by the other parties. Despite the very difficult economic situation in which members were put and despite the very severe inflation which was just hitting members very hard at that particular time, the Premier chose to stick to his pledge to the bitter end. I have to express for the record regrets about that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It was to his credit.

Mr. Cassidy: I think it was wrong to put members under that kind of economic pressure. There was a time when the Premier as a member of the Legislature should have acknowledged his responsibility and duty to his fellow members of the Legislature, regardless of party, and should have been prepared to admit that he made a mistake in taking that particular pledge.

Mr. Gregory: He didn't make a mistake.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Gregory: You made the mistake.

Mr. Cassidy: I think it was wrong, for the Premier—

Mr. Swart: It was all election promises.

Mr. Cassidy:—to take political shots at members of the Legislature, and particularly the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and myself, when we quite legitimately and as members of a select committee that was charged to look at the matter suggested in December 1975 that interim adjustments should be made, precisely so that members would not be in the kind of situation that we are in right now and so that we would not come under the rather crushing impositions of the Anti-Inflation Board as we are right now.

I have to say that it is easier for people in the cabinet or for people of private means to have made the kind of judgement that the Premier made. You have to bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, that at least 56 of the 125 members of the House do not have the benefits of cabinet office or cabinet salaries, or other perquisites and emoluments of this particular place.

As the Hickling-Johnston consultants who reported to our committee established, this is a tough, difficult job, not the kind of job which you grow rich in. It is a job with incredibly long hours. It is a job which involves undue and prolonged separation from family and children, a lot of pressure and risks, great effects on people's careers because of the interruption of careers from

being in this particular place, to the point where I think it is fair to say that very few people enter politics for rational reasons and certainly not for the reasons of getting rich.

Mr. Kerrio: Speak for yourself.

Interjections.

Mr. Cassidy: The problem we now have, and the need for a very substantial pay adjustment now and in October, was originally created I am afraid by the Camp commission because it failed to come to grips with the problem of annual adjustments of members' salaries. That is why, as we commented, we are put into an invidious position.

Mr. Gregory: You have asked for it for two years, now you are apologizing.

Mr. Cassidy: It was particularly invidious because the freeze on senior government officials' salaries lasted for only one year. The drop in cabinet ministers' salaries lasted for only one year. The base of category one on the senior lists of executive salaries rose by \$6,000 between 1973 and 1976 while the members' were frozen. The very senior level of deputy ministers' rose also by \$6,000 between 1973 and 1976, and if you want me to read a couple of figures into the record to show just where we stand right now, Mr. Speaker, the average family income in the province, after this pay increase and the one seen for October, will still be higher than what members are receiving.

As of April of this year for every male employee of the Ontario government between the ages of 35 and 55—and there are about 20,000 of them—if you took their average salary from the cleaners and the mechanics and the carpenters right up to the deputy ministers, their average pay was about \$18,000, which is just a shade below what members will be receiving if both of these increases go through, and does not take into account the overtime.

People who are in managerial, technical, professional and confidential categories of the Ontario government; that is people who were in the classes excluded from the bargaining groups and who do jobs that are more directly comparable with those of members, if they are male average \$22,000, and if they are female average \$18,000. There are about 13,900 of them overall, and they average \$21,500, or in other words, the Ontario government pays to its civil servants in the senior and much-less-than-senior positions, which are deemed to be outside of the bargaining groups, a salary very substantially in excess of that which

the members will get after this particular pay increase.

The final point I would just put in about that before moving on is that between 1969 and the present, members are moving from a basic salary of \$12,000 to one of \$19,400, for an increase of 60 per cent over a period of eight years or thereabouts, assuming an increase goes through in the fall. Over that period of time the consumer price index has increased by 71 per cent. The average wage in Ontario has increased by 102 per cent. The average emolument for people in the House of Commons has increased by 114 per cent, and the average of members of the Quebec National Assembly by 118 per cent.

If anybody feels that members are ripping off the public I think they should look at those particular facts — perhaps, in fact, talk to some of the members who have had heavy economic difficulties and gone into debt and so on because of the situation into which they have been put.

When the House leader introduced this legislation a week ago he said there would be a further adjustment in accordance with the AIB rules in October. Obviously we welcome that. I was dismayed to hear that there was a possibility of some pressure on the government side for an increase for cabinet ministers, which would be of a greater amount than that for the private members. As far as my party is concerned, we feel any increase in October or November should be exactly the same amount for every member of the Legislature and there should be no discrimination between private members and cabinet ministers. That would be bitterly opposed.

[8:45]

Although the House Leader was not explicit, we understand what his statement means is that the government has accepted the spirit and the principles of the select committee's report and, therefore, the maximum amount available under the AIB rules will be given to the members as of the bill coming forward in October or thereabouts.

I want to say as well that the problem of a mechanism for regular review, it seems to me, has to be taken further than simply making provision for a detailed and independent review about adjustments as was outlined in the House leader's statement. When our committee looked at this matter we regretted the failure of the Camp Commission to come to grips with the problem. The Hickling-Johnston committee made a very conservative recommendation that the taxable portion of members' salaries should be adjusted every year by an amount equal to the

lesser of the percentage increase in the consumer price index or in the industrial composite of the wage index for the province of Ontario.

It is our feeling, effective October 1978, which is the first anniversary from October of this year, that automatic adjustment should be built in, whether or not the government intends also to have an independent review mechanism to see whether a better review formula can be found.

We believe we should never again be put into the invidious position of having to come publicly before politicians who may make political capital of a difficult situation. We believe, like the federal Parliament, the Quebec Parliament and a number of municipal councils across the province, a mechanism should be in place for regular annual adjustment of MPPs' salaries so that even if they have to be changed from time to time and reviewed from time to time they never again get miles and miles behind an appropriate salary level as had happened over the last few years.

I want to close by recalling that our committee was disappointed in the recommendations of the Hickling-Johnston report. I hope the House leader recognizes that and I hope members of the Legislature are aware of that as well. Hickling-Johnston recommended a salary level rather higher than what the members will be getting based on what people could be expected to be earning in the trades or professions at about the age of 30. However, as the committee pointed out, the average age of the members is 48. On average, they've had about eight years of legislative service and they have had many years of related experience before they entered politics. It does not seem appropriate to relate their pay only to what is earned by someone in the trades or professions at the age of about 30.

As a committee, we could not agree with the Hickling-Johnston consultants' report that extra duties that were given to MPPs should be rewarded by extra amounts, because we found it very difficult to separate the basic duties of an MPP from what Hickling-Johnston considered were extra duties. The select committee, on which all members of all parties were represented unanimously recommended that the basic indemnity of Ontario members should be comparable to that which was given to members of the House of Commons and the Quebec National Assembly. This is not a matter before us at this time.

Hon. B. Stephenson: Was it unanimous?

Mr. Eaton: That wasn't in the report.

Mr. Cassidy: That is in the report, yes. The member for Middlesex was one of the members who signed that particular report.

An hon. member: We didn't agree to that report.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Ottawa Centre only.

Mr. Cassidy: If I can read the report signed by the member for Middlesex: "To take another standard of comparison, the committee believes that the basic indemnity of Ontario members should be comparable to that given members of the House of Commons and the Quebec National Assembly since the responsibilities and duties of elected members in the three Houses are comparable."

That was signed by the then member for Ottawa West (Mr. Morrow), the member for Middlesex, the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Maeck), the member for Sudbury East and myself, as well as the member for St. George (Mrs. Campbell) and the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Gaunt). That is a matter which will have to come before this House at a later date. It is worth noting, however, Mr. Speaker, if you look at what Ontario is prepared to pay to its own civil servants—and I'll just read one specific job application that's available in Topical right now—it does give one pause to think when you think of the responsibilities borne by members of this House.

This is an advertisement for an executive director, services division, in the Ministry of Transportation and Communications who is required to provide executive direction to four branch directors on the overall development of the operating objectives and a long-term policy for the division. He's to initiate, review and approve the planning, organization and procedural activities of the division, and must have diversified experience in the Ontario public service in progressively responsible, managerial positions. I don't even know what the salary for that particular job is. However, they're asking for people to apply who are currently earning in excess of \$35,000.

I don't even want to advocate whatever we should do in the long run. We agree with the bill right now and we deplore the time it has taken. We hope an automatic adjustment feature will be added to it in the fall and we trust the government will adhere to its commitment to follow the recommendations and the principles of the select committee report and the Hickling-Johnston

report when the second half of this legislative package is advanced in the fall.

Mr. Germa: Mr. Speaker, I know how inhibited any elected member is when speaking to his own wage adjustment. I have had to face this predicament at three levels of government—at the municipal level, at the federal level and now at the provincial level. I know there is a great inhibition among elected people to adjust their own wages, and this particular adjustment is doubly complicated by the inhibitions of the Anti-Inflation Board which are presently in effect in Canada. Consequently, we are plagued with not only the decisions we have to make for ourselves but also having to make decisions that are acceptable to the Anti-Inflation Board.

I understand the present wage adjustment of some \$2,200 in direct payout and \$200 in fringe benefits is within the guidelines of the Anti-Inflation Board and nothing I say should be misconstrued to mean that I do not accept the inhibitions as dictated by the Anti-Inflation Board. I accept totally that we have a responsibility in Canada to control the inflationary trend, and I'm willing to do my part.

What I am concerned about is that there are people in other sectors of society who are not doing their part. I think it would be good for the members and for this House generally and maybe the people of Ontario if they were to understand what is going on in the executive branch of the industrial sector and just to compare what we are doing here tonight with what has happened in the industrial sector.

I happen to have before me certain wage increases which were granted, presumably with permission of the Anti-Inflation Board, to various executive officers in large corporations in Canada in the year 1976. I would like to put them on the record so that each and every member can compare what he is doing here tonight and what has been happening in industry.

The figures I have are from company reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington DC. These figures are not published publicly in Canada. That's another strange thing about Canada—that the executives do not have to publish their incomes. But because these are subsidiary companies to American parent corporations they have to file in Washington, DC, and consequently the figures are public in the United States but they are not in Canada.

The first one I would like to mention, one of the great inflation fighters in Canada, is from McIntyre Mines Limited, Toronto—P. A. Cain, the vice-president of operations. His

salary in 1975 was \$49,720; in 1976 his salary was \$75,208, for an increase of \$25,488 or 51.3 per cent.

Mr. Kerrio: That just proves you should go to work for McIntyre.

Mr. Grossman: That was a bad year.

Mr. Germa: I would ask, how does a wage increase like that in Canada conform to the \$2,400 maximum guidelines, as enunciated by the Anti-Inflation Board? How did that conform with the 10 per cent figure that was in effect as of 1976?

Rio Algom Limited, Toronto; George R. Albino, president: in 1975 he was earning \$152,533; in 1976 he earned \$180,000 for an increase of \$27,468 or 18 per cent.

I would ask the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. McKeough), as a person signatory to the Anti-Inflation Board agreement, if he could possibly get the rationale for these increases. How does it happen when we know that the maximum allowable is \$2,400, last year it was a 10 per cent increase, that we see people walking away with a \$27,000 increase?

Pacific Petroleum Limited, Calgary; A. M. McIntosh, executive vice-president: 1975 salary, \$71,030; 1976 salary, \$101,402; an increase of \$30,372 or 42.8 per cent.

Mr. Grossman: That was a bad year.

Mr. Wildman: His productivity went up a lot.

Mr. Germa: I can understand why I'm disillusioned with the Anti-Inflation Board, but I don't think anyone here should feel inhibited about voting for the bill tonight.

Mr. Grossman: When your productivity goes up, you get a raise too.

Mr. Germa: The government has willingly complied with the Anti-Inflation Board guidelines. I understand this bill is going to receive unanimous consent. All of us here are inflation fighters compared to this gang in the industrial sector. But have they any concern for Canada's financial circumstances?

Mr. Cassidy: None.

Mr. Germa: It appears not.

Mr. Warner: Corporate welfare bums.

Mr. Germa: Here's one we all know. Imperial Oil Limited, Toronto; John Armstrong, president and chairman: 1975 salary, \$234,333; 1976 salary, \$251,600; an increase of \$17,267.

Mr. Grossman: That is not even 10 per cent.

Interjections.

Mr. Germa: Let me give just a few more, Mr. Speaker. I hope you'll have patience with me, but I think it's wise to compare

and understand what is going on in Canada on this night in 1977. This is the only way we can decide. We have to compare our income, what we are taking out of society, with what other people are taking from society.

Mr. Ashe: Four dollars an hour.

Mr. Germa: Kaiser Resources Limited; Edgar Kaiser Jr., president: 1975 salary, \$206,637; 1976 salary, \$267,000; an increase of \$60,360 or 29.2 per cent. How does that happen?

Mr. Ruston: What about Claire Hoy's salary?

Mr. Kerrio: What about Claire J. Hoy?

Mr. Germa: Massey-Ferguson Limited—we all know that outfit—Albert Thornborough, president: 1975 salary, \$353,833; 1976 salary, \$373,833; an increase of \$20,000.

The best one I've saved for the last—the greatest inflation fighter in Canada. Wait until you hear this one. Genstar Limited, Montreal; Ross Turner, president and chief executive officer: 1975 salary, \$101,767; 1976 salary, \$124,700; an increase of \$23,993 or 23.8 per cent.

But that is not all that Mr. Turner received in 1976. Mr. Turner received an incentive. His incentive in 1975 was \$59,590; his 1976 incentive was \$100,184, for an increase of \$40,594 or 68.1 per cent. The total increase in wages for Mr. Turner between 1975 and 1976 was 91.9 per cent. Is it any wonder that I'm disillusioned with the Anti-Inflation Board?

I think no one here tonight should feel inhibited—

An hon. member: We're not.

Mr. Germa: —by accepting the \$2,400 which is coming to us.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for third reading.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 47, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act.

[9:00]

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Welch moved second reading of Bill 48, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act, 1973.

Mr. Breithaupt: With respect to the changes to The Legislative Assembly Retirement

ment Act, there were several which had been suggested some months ago, so that survivor benefits particularly—

Mr. Reid: None of them ever got in the bill.

Mr. Eaton: Not much benefit to you anyway, Pat. You would have to get married.

Mr. Breithaupt:—would be reviewed, with the hopes that there could be some benefits for members in the House. As well, certain changes with respect to other pension and survivors' benefits appear in the Act. There is one item which I would refer to the government House leader with respect to the formula for the calculation of the allowance.

It was my understanding that it was the intention that members who had not run again in the last election campaign and who, as a result, were not able to benefit from the proposed salary increases that are now some four years in coming before us, would have the understanding that they would at least benefit from the increased percentage base in the calculations for their own particular pensions.

I understand from the government House leader that he has received comments from the legislative counsel with respect to the third section of this bill, which is the matter of the bill coming into force on the day in which it receives royal assent. It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that we are agreed that these changes in the percentage for the base upon which the average pension is payable are meant to be in effect as of this fiscal year, commencing April 1, 1977. That change, in my view, would ensure that this increasing percentage for the second 10 years of service would be available to those members to whom it could apply who did not seek re-election or who were defeated in the campaign. I believe there are some 12 members involved.

I would like the acknowledgement by the government House leader that that is certainly the intention of the bill, so that if any difficulty should arise because of the passage of the bill in its present form we could then attend to whatever change might be necessary in order to accommodate the understanding that we all have on this matter.

Mr. Renwick: I don't pretend for a moment to have any mathematical ability to deal with the retirement provisions for the members, but the point which has been raised by the House leader for the Liberal Party certainly strikes a responsive chord in myself and, I'm sure, in other members of the caucus.

I'm not certain about the interpretation and I don't believe this is the particular point

in time when we should be too concerned about the interpretation if it is understood that the reference to "former members" as it is set out in the bill refers to all former members of the Legislative Assembly and, in fact, covers those members who, for one reason or another, are not members of the assembly during the 31st Parliament.

I want to make a further point in connection with it. I find it a little bit difficult, I guess, to discern what are matters agreed among the House leaders and what are matters agreed within the assembly. But I think it's extremely important that the committee which I believe is to be appointed, representative of the three parties objectively and in a non-partisan way—because I can't concede that it could be other than that—which will deal with these matters should not only deal with those former members of the assembly who, for one reason or another, were members of the 30th Parliament but are not members of the 31st Parliament. It should look also into the question of the pension allowances which are available to those former members of the assembly who were members of previous Parliaments. In some way or another, I think we have to come to grips with upgrading generally the pensions of former members of the assembly who were here at times when both the remuneration and the pension arrangements were less than satisfactory. I believe that would meet with agreement among all members of all of the parties. I would certainly commend that to the committee which I believe is going to study these matters with a view to making a more formal presentation with respect to retirement allowances.

Mr. Grossman: My father will be happy to hear that.

Ms. Gigantes: Yes, won't he, eh?

Mr. Renwick: I wasn't thinking specifically of the predecessor of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick. I think he will be able to get along quite well. As a matter of fact, he is feeling quite well and we can always make an exception by way of exclusion of him from any general amendment which we may pass in the assembly.

Mr. Grossman: You wouldn't do that.

Mr. Conway: The family compact runs very deep.

Mr. Renwick: I am speaking of some former members who did not happen to be members of the governing party in the province—

Mr. Grossman: Vern Singer.

Mr. Renwick:—and some members of the governing party who didn't happen to be in favour with the ruling elite in the governing party at the time and, therefore, had to subsist simply upon the retirement arrangements which were made for what we call the ordinary members of the assembly, using the phrase in very much the same way in the Anglican church as we use the phrase, "The Book of Common Prayer." That is, the common members of the assembly, those who subsist upon the basic emoluments set out in The Legislative Assembly Act and not upon any other of the emoluments that accrue to those who belong to the family compact that have ruled the province for so long in the province of Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Renwick: But I want to say that we do agree with the thrust of the comments made by the House leader for the official opposition. I hope someone in the government benches will be able to confirm that the members of the 30th Parliament who are not members of the 31st Parliament will have the benefit of these amendments. I would hope that the members of the committee which is ultimately charged with responsibility of making recommendations to the Chairman of Management Board for presentation to cabinet for approval, because they will have had the benefit of the agreement of all members of all three parties, will take into account the needs of the former common members of the Legislative Assembly, regardless of when they sat in this particular House.

Mr. Nixon: I hope the good Lord and the people of Brant-Oxford-Norfolk are going to co-operate so that I will not have an immediate and personal interest in the provisions of this amendment for some time. But I do want to say that section 3, which was referred to by my colleague from Kitchener, which says the Act shall come into force the day it receives royal assent, does concern me. The House leader for the government party is now resuming his seat and it may be that he will be able to reassure us that the provisions of this amendment will apply to the members of the previous Legislature as they do to this.

Frankly, I am very much concerned that such an assurance might only be effective as it pertains to section 2, that is, for survivor rights and not to the basis of the calculation of the pension. When we think that our colleagues from the previous Legislature who are no longer with us have served almost exactly as we have served, minus about 11 days of work, or whatever it is we do here

in this Legislature, it would seem eminently sensible for this bill to go to committee and for section 3 to be amended, as I believe would be reasonable, indicating that the Act comes into force not on the day that it receives royal assent but at the beginning of this fiscal year, April 1, 1977. I would hope that the House leader will take steps to see that that amendment is brought forward.

Mr. Cassidy: I subscribe to the remarks made by the two preceding speakers. I just wanted to put into the record the comments of the select committee on the fourth and fifth reports of the Camp commission as they related to the matter of pensions.

Pensions were not strictly speaking within our terms of reference but we still managed to squeeze in a reference or so to them. We believe that both the pension plan and severance benefits should be reviewed. We argued that the pension should be adjusted to meet current needs and should be based solely on the basic indemnity.

One of the major feelings that the committee had, one of the major conclusions which members of all parties on the committee came to, was that we will not get an adequate pension arrangement for the common members of the Legislature, as the member for Riverdale puts it, until every person in this House is put on the same basis. However, so long as the pension is basically determined by members of the cabinet who are working from an average annual income base roughly double that of the ordinary members of the Legislature, the backbenchers, it does not seem possible or likely that anything adequate will be done in order to look after members, particularly when one bears in mind the rather wearing nature of the job and the loss in career prospects for people who leave this place in their forties or early fifties and can no longer resume the kind of careers they could have had if they had remained in private life and out of public service.

We also suggested that the government of Ontario make the necessary request to the federal authorities to have the exclusion of members from the Canada Pension Plan ended. I commend that to the House leader. That's something that the government, by agreement with the other House leaders, could do over the course of the summer. The exclusion of Ontario MPPs from the Canada Pension Plan—and we are one of the very few groups of employees in the entire country which are thus excluded—was a quixotic feature of that federal legislation when it was put in, at the behest, I believe, of Leslie Frost or else John Robarts many years ago.

It is quite unsuited, it seems to me, to the current nature of the work and the way in which one trusts that the members of the Legislature will come into this place and then go back to private life from time to time. It is wrong that those CPP benefits should not be accruing during the time we are working here. It is wrong particularly for people who may find severe losses, not because of the pension plan here, but because of what they lose on the CPP.

Finally, although this is slightly out of order, the committee concluded that severance benefits should apply equally to members who do not seek re-election as well as to those who are defeated. All of those matters I believe should come before the tri-party committee. I would hope on behalf of the NDP in this Legislature that these matters are not allowed to die, but that the question of this bill, The Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act, is reopened once again for adequate treatment for the members when we resume in the fall.

Mr. Reid: I don't rise to speak on the sections dealing with spouse or survivor benefits. I can assure you that there is no conflict of interest in my particular instance, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There's no grey hair.

Mr. Reid: They will have to offer quite a bit before it becomes an incentive, I'll tell you.

I would like to bring two matters to the attention of the government in regard to pensions. I would be willing to put amendments tonight, if the House leader would accept them. I am sure he would with the grace and charm that he usually accepts these matters. One is that I think in the review that takes place the formula for receiving one's pension should be looked at. If I recall correctly, the present formula is that age plus years of experience must equal 60.

Mr. Deans: Years of service. Experience doesn't enter into it.

Mr. Reid: Pardon me, years of service plus age must equal 60. I say with some large amount of self-interest, I suppose, that it puts some of us at a very strong disadvantage, particularly those of us who entered the House at a relatively early age and who may leave the House at a relatively early age. Age only chronologically, not otherwise, I would say. We all draw upon our own experience.

An hon. member: You are still young.

Mr. Stokes: You are complaining of immaturity, is that it?

Mr. Reid: I was involved in a business in my riding which I had to give up because of

my involvement here. My riding being 1,200 miles away, I wasn't able to continue my involvement in that business, to some financial detriment. And I think that's one of the—

Interjections.

[9:15]

Mr. Reid: I'm getting a lot of help here.

Mr. Breithaupt: Then what did the sheriff say?

Mr. Nixon: It's monkey business.

Mr. Reid: In any case, it is a little difficult for most members to continue in another career or business and be present here.

Mr. Breithaupt: Did your business drop off? Is that what you're trying to tell us?

Mr. Reid: I hope that one didn't get into Hansard.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Explain yourself, Pat. Explain yourself.

Mr. Reid: The other thing I'd like to bring to the government House leader's attention is the fact that there should be written into the formula for—

Mr. Breithaupt: Northerners.

Mr. Reid: —for the number of elections that a person goes through. And I say this on behalf of the members who were first elected in 1975—

Mr. Renwick: You are talking nonsense.

Mr. Reid: Well, I've been listening to the hon. member; I'm afraid he finally got through to me and my brain has become warped like his, so I probably am talking nonsense. If the hon. member had been in the House and listened to his two colleagues this afternoon, he would be talking nonsense as well.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member please continue his remarks?

Mr. Renwick: You mean how fortunate we are to have you here?

Mr. Reid: Yes, you are. I didn't think you appreciated it.

I say this, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members who were first elected in 1975, then have had to go through another election in 1977, who may very well have to go through another election within one year or possibly two or three years. In fact, it's a mathematical possibility they may have gone through three elections and still not have reached that figure of five years, I believe, before they are able to collect something on their pension. I think that is a consideration that also should be taken into account.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I appreciate having the benefit of the advice shared by the other

members, Mr. Speaker. I think the principal concern is with respect to the effective date of this legislation. I can only share with members of the House a memorandum which I have received from the legislative counsel; we had consulted with him earlier today on this particular point because we were anxious to give effect to the concerns which have already been expressed.

The change in formula, I am advised, comes into effect on royal assent. It will then affect all who come under part II of the Act to which this is an amendment; that is, those who are referred to in section 15 of the Act. If I could then make reference to section 15 of the Act, it says that this part applies to a member who becomes a member after the date this Act comes into force, which is October 1, 1973, and to any member who was a member on that day and elects to contribute under this part.

If that opinion is to be properly translated, it would appear that it goes back far beyond April 1, the beginning of this fiscal year, and really applies to all who have become members of the plan under their election as of October 1, 1973.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for third reading.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 48, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act.

PEEL MUNICIPALITY HYDRO-ELECTRIC SERVICE ACT

House in committee of the whole on Bill 56, An Act to provide for Municipal Hydro-Electric Service in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2:

Hon. J. A. Taylor: It has been pointed out to me, Mr. Chairman, that in subsection 5 of section 2 there is a typographical error. The reference is to the Brampton Public Utility Commission; it should be the Brampton Hydro-Electric Commission.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Taylor moves that section 2(5) of the bill be amended by striking out "Public Utility" in the fourth line and inserting in lieu thereof "Hydro-Electric."

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, the reason I asked the bill be put into committee is that

I was unable to follow through the sequence of sections dealing with the town of Caledon, insofar as they affect the employees of Ontario Hydro who are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. The provisions to which I refer are section 2(4), section 3(3), subsections 10, 11 and 12 of section 3; and finally section 6(3).

In the course of the provisions made for the transition, if the town of Caledon decides on the utility system set out under this restructuring bill, there appears to be some difficulty in determining whether or not the presently employed Ontario Hydro employees are covered through those transitional provisions.

I did have an opportunity of speaking with the minister's advisers about this. I am assured, and I would like to have the minister's assurance, that section 3(10) of the bill protects these employees. The subsection states that "The council of the town of Caledon may by bylaw direct the Caledon Hydro-Electric Commission to commence the distribution and supply of power, on a day specified by the council, in all areas of Caledon supplied with power by Ontario Hydro pursuant to subsection 3, and on the day specified, subsections 8 and 9"—and I emphasize "and section 6 apply with necessary modifications."

Would this mean that the employees of Ontario Hydro at that time would be protected by the various transfer provisions in section 6 of the bill?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: The reference in section 3(10) makes section 6, which deals with the transfer of employees, apply with the necessary modifications at the time of transfer. I think the concern is that there is a provision in the bill providing for a subsequent review within three years of the balance of the town of Caledon, and at that time a determination may be made to transfer into the utilities commission those employees who in the meantime have been employees of the Ontario Hydro. The intention is to give them the same benefits as employees who are transferred initially into what is known as the Bolton PUC.

I can assure my friend from Riverdale that he is correct in the interpretation that has been given to him by my legal counsel, and I would like to reaffirm that for the record.

Mr. Renwick: I take it then, Mr. Chairman, what the minister is saying is that the employees in the Ontario Hydro system within the area to be served by the town of Caledon will have the same protection as the Hydro employees who become employees of

the commission established by the bill for the city of Brampton and for the city of Mississauga, despite the difference in time at which that event may occur?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Precisely. The only difference is the time in which that transfer takes place.

Section 2, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 3 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 6:

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to pursue reading the issue further that I raised with the minister on second reading. It involves the designation date for the employees to whom they must offer employment, which is January 1, 1977. I'm talking about section 6(2).

It's my understanding that the present commissions have been reluctant to hire additional employees. I understand there have been a few employees taken on since January 1, 1977. I'm just wondering why the date of January 1 was arbitrarily picked. I realize we have to pick some arbitrary date but why wouldn't it be at the date of the passing of the bill that all full-time employees would have protection, rather than just those who had been hired previous to January 1, 1977?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: The first of the year has been picked as the date for the vesting and the transfer of the assets and it is the cutoff date that has been chosen.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. There seems to be some unnecessary noise in the chamber, probably from some necessary conversations. I wonder if the other members could keep their conversations to a minimum.

Mr. Swart: I am aware, Mr. Chairman, that December 31, 1977, or January 1, 1978, is the day of the vesting and the day that the change officially is made. But I am referring to January 1 of this year, the date established when employees must have been hired prior to that time before they have any guarantee that they will be taken into the new system. I would just like to know why that date was picked?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: I could get that information. But what it basically provides is that they have to have been employees for a year prior to the transfer. I think that's the point that you are making there.

Mr. Swart: Why not make it the date of the passing of the bill—full-time employees at that time?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: I think that's the recommendation that is carried through from the

Hogg report. May I read recommendation 8.3: "If the new electively chosen commission shall offer employment to any person formerly employed by a municipal corporation, commission or Ontario Hydro and who is and designated by that previous employer as having been continuously employed in the distribution and supply of power within the designated area for at least one year immediately prior to the date the utility was established." So I guess the requirements for some connection or association for a period of a year flows from that report.

Mr. Bounsall: On section 6(4), with the effective date of transfer being January 1, I would like to ask the minister why it is that the salary commencing on that transfer date is a wage or salary not less than he was making nine months before that transfer date. Why is it nine months? All the other benefits outlined in that section 6 refer to the day before—the group life insurance, the sick leave and so on—yet when it comes to salaries it's nine months before.

Does the minister know that there are to be no salary increases at all between April 1 of this year and the end of the year for any and all of those employees affected in the city of Brampton, the city of Mississauga and the town of Caledon? If that is the case, if there are no cost of living adjustments to come in or there are no salary increases between April 1 and December 31 of this year, then I can understand why, with the 31st being the last day referred to before the transfer takes place, we can backdate it nine months. But I can't understand why that is to be no less than what it was nine months previously if there is any possibility of salary increases pertaining, because it would allow the restructured municipal hydro-electric services, however they are called, to pay the salaries as of April 1, rather than the increases which have pertained in the interim.

[9:30]

Hon. J. A. Taylor: Again, some criteria have to be provided. The hon. member mentioned nine months, and I suppose that's the normal gestation period, but again I would refer him to the Hogg report in recommendation 8.4, which I will quote:

"Any person who accepts employment with a new utility shall be entitled for a period of one year from the date the new supply authority was established to receive a wage or salary of not less than that to which he was entitled in the ninth month prior to the termination of his employment with his previous employer."

May I say that all of these matters have been reviewed very thoroughly with the bar-

gaining agent. It's not something that is being imposed on the employees unilaterally; it's something that's been arrived at, and I think that all the parties involved are happy with this.

Mr. Bounsall: I take it then that the minister is assuring the House that that date of April 1, as the Act reads, is a date agreeable to all the bargaining agents concerned and all the employees in those three municipalities. They are happy to accept that that's the way it works out—salaries or wages for their employees as of April 1 of this year. Is that what the minister is assuring us?

Hon. J. A. Taylor: That is my understanding of it, yes.

Section 6 agreed to.

Sections 7 to 10, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 56, as amended, reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with a certain amendment.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 56, An Act to provide for Municipal Hydro-Electric Service in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY

Resolutions for supply for the following ministries were concurred in by the House:

Provincial Secretary for Social Development;

Ministry of Housing;

Ministry of Education; and

Ministry of Energy.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That bring us to a very happy point in the proceedings, Mr. Speaker. Only one thing remains to stand in the way of our summer recess and that is, I would now go to get His Honour the Administrator and bring him in for royal assent. I would hope that most members would feel compelled to stay until such time as His Honour the Administrator has come and left the chamber.

The Administrator of the Province of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. G. A. Gale (Administrator of the Province of Ontario): Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has,

at its present sitting thereof, passed certain bills to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk Assistant: The following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 21, An Act to establish The Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Bill 47, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act.

Bill 48, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act, 1973.

Bill 55, An Act to establish Electrical Service Areas in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

Bill 56, An Act to provide for Municipal Hydro-Electric Service in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

Bill 3, An Act to require the Essex County Board of Education to provide a French-language Secondary School.

Bill 5, An Act to amend The Income Tax Act.

Bill 6, An Act to amend The Ontario Unconditional Grants Act, 1975.

Bill 7, An Act to amend The Succession Duty Act.

Bill 8, An Act to authorize the Raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Bill 9, An Act respecting the Registration of Venture Investment Corporations.

Bill 10, An Act to amend The Tobacco Tax Act.

Bill 11, An Act to provide Employment Opportunities for Youth in Ontario.

Bill 12, An Act to amend The Retail Sales Tax Act.

Bill 13, An Act to amend The Land Transfer Tax Act, 1974.

Bill 14, An Act to amend The Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974.

Bill 15, An Act to amend The Corporations Tax Act, 1972.

Bill 16, An Act to amend The Gift Tax Act, 1972.

Bill 17, An Act to amend The Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Act.

Bill 19, An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

Bill 20, An Act to amend The Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, 1974.

Bill 23, An Act to provide for the Transfer of Services relating to Children.

Bill 24, An Act to amend The Personal Property Security Act.

Bill 26, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act.

Bill 45, An Act to amend The Farm Products Payments Act.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, the Honourable the Administrator doth assent to these bills.

The Honourable the Administrator was pleased to retire from the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It has been a very brief but very productive session, Mr. Speaker, I

wish all members a very pleasant summer break.

Mr. Conway: Are you going to summer camp, Bob?

On motion by Hon. Mr. Welch the House adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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